METRO / A21

General Esperon redeploys troops in Metro Manila

WORLD / A23

58 killed in Pakistan mosque siege

NEWS / A11

4 soldiers killed in Bossi search, Marines report

NEWS /A9

MTRCB suspends Fr. Nico for shouting at censors chief Laguardia

NEWS / A10

IPU mission report blasts GMA administration for 'Batasan 6' case

'Women drawn to men with muscles, not money'

CHICAGO—MUSCULAR young men are likely to have more sex partners than their less-chiseled peers, according to researchers at the University of California Los Angeles.

The study, published on Monday in the Personality

WOMEN/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, July 11, 2007 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 213 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

NBI: Show biz celebs invested in Francswiss

By Arlyn dela Cruz, *Contributor* and Tina G. Santos

ACTRESS ARA MINA SAID "NO" THREE TIMES. But other show biz celebrities succumbed to the temptation of high returns on their investment and fell prey to a pyramiding scam on the Internet.

The victims include TV and media personali-

NBI: SHOW BIZ/ A19

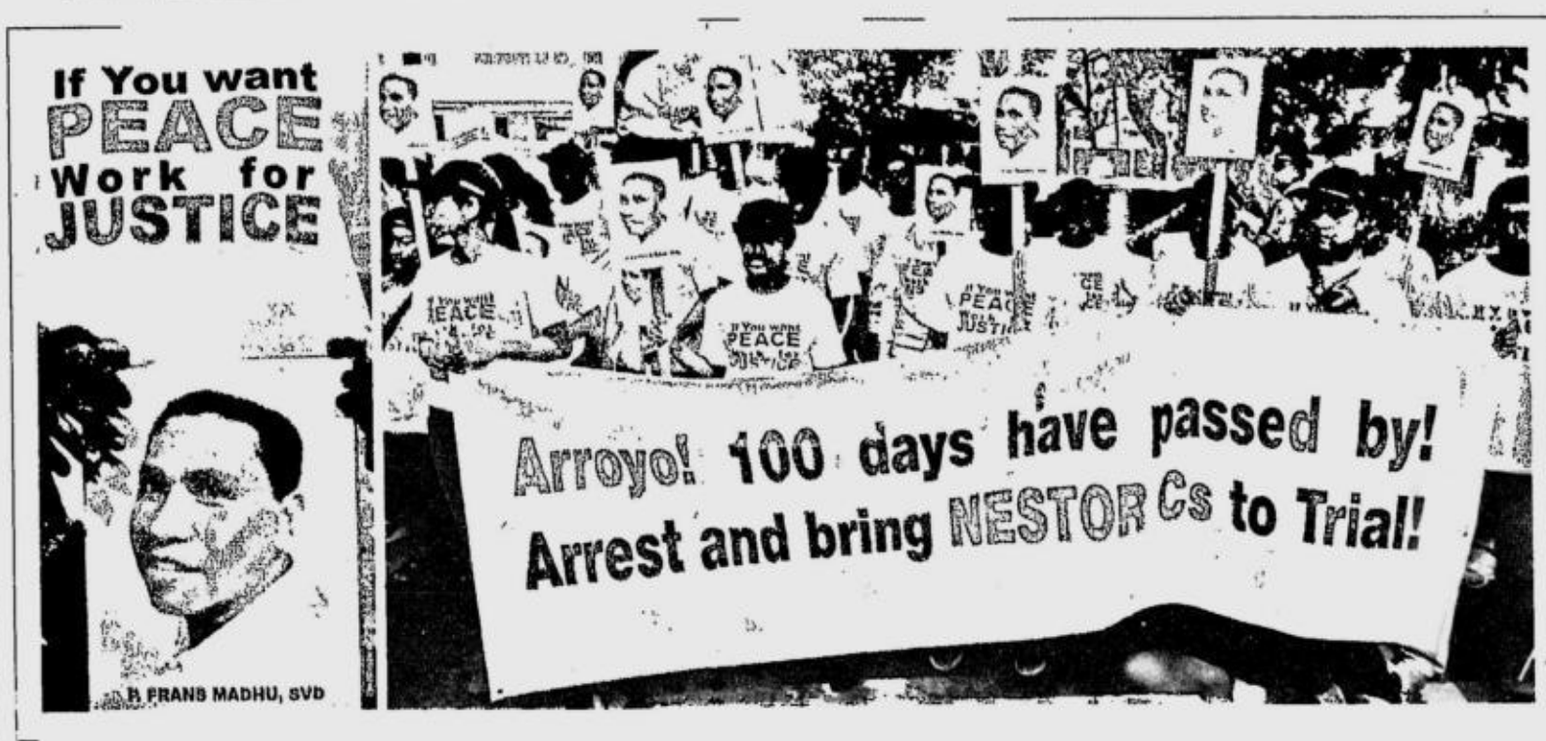
Ermita to AFP: Produce six Isafp agents

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendano

TO SETTLE THE MATTER ONCE AND for all, the military should produce the six intelligence agents an informant has linked to the abduction of activist Jonas Burgos, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

"They have to present themselves and show whether they were really involved or not," Ermita told reporters on the plane to Cagayan de Oro, where he joined President Macapagal-Arroyo in a

ERMITA/ A19



AND COUNTING. Demonstrators picket the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta on Monday to seek justice for the Indon missionary priest Frans Madhu who was murdered in Tuguegarao City on April 1. The alleged suspect is Nestor Wailan. Ordained a priest in 2004, Madhu had been working in Tuguegarao since 2005. He was 31. AFP

Reds target of terror law

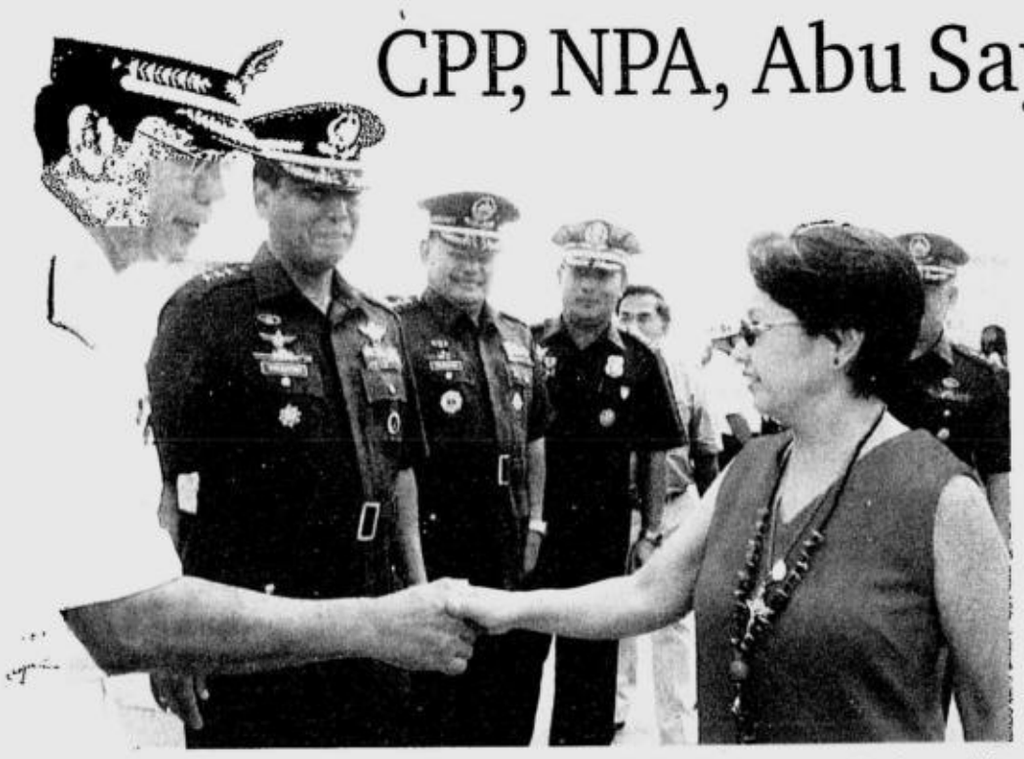
GMA: Secure all transport, communication, power agencies

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—EVEN before the Human Security Act could take effect, President Macapagal-Arroyo already fired her first order—secure all power, transportation and communication facilities from terrorist attack.

Addressing a peace and order summit on the implementation of Republic Act No. 9372, or the antiterror law, Ms Arroyo yesterday also announced she would introduce sweeping legislation in the new Congress that would impose stiffer penalties on soldiers and policemen involved in human rights abuses

GMA: SECURE/ A6



LYN RILLON

TOLENTINOS ON THE TARMAC. Ms Arroyo arrives in Cagayan de Oro for the peace and order summit. Coincidentally, 3 top brass surnamed Tolentino meet her. From left, Vice Adm. Amable Tolentino, Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Horacio Tolentino, Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino. The three are not related.

CPP, NPA, Abu Sayyaf to be outlawed

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Leila B. Salaverria

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WILL ASK THE courts to outlaw the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army and the Abu Sayyaf once the Human Security Act of 2007 takes effect on July 15, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Ermita is the chair and Gonzalez the vice chair of the Anti-Terror Council that will implement the HSA, or Republic Act No. 9372, which Catholic bishops say could be used to quell popular dissent against the Arroyo administration.

The antiterror law lets authorities detain suspects for up to three days without charges being filed in court, and gives them the green light to use wiretapping and other forms of surveillance and to seize assets.

Lawyers yesterday said the absence of implementing rules and regulations would give law enforcers too much leeway in enforcing the antiterror law.

Gonzalez said he wrote the Supreme Court on Monday asking it to designate the special

REDS TARGET/ A10

SC junks rebellion raps vs 'Batasan 6' with finality

By Norman Bordadora and Leila B. Salaverria

CHAFING IN DETENTION FOR over 15 months, and saddled with a P1.3-million hospital bill, Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday declared himself ready to work even before Congress convenes on July 23.

Beltran, 74, made known his wish to attend the Supreme Court's summit on extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances on July 15-16 immediately after learning that the tribunal had thrown out the rebellion case against him and fellow party-list lawmakers Satur Ocampo, Joel Virador, Teodoro Casiño (all of Bayan Muna), Liza Maza (Gabriela) and Rafael Mariano (also of Anakpawis), and civilians Vicente Ladlad, Nathanael Santiago, Randall Echanis and Rey Claro Casambre.

"I beg the indulgence of Chief Justice Reynato Puno and ask for an invitation to the summit. I wish to be able to share my experience as a Filipino and a progressive lawmaker who was arrested and detained for speaking out against the unjust and antipoor policies of the Arroyo administration," Beltran told the INQUIRER.

"The fight for civil rights in the Philippines must be strengthened and civil rights defended at all cost. We cannot be denied our basic rights and freedoms by a government that never had the legal mandate of the Filipino people," he said.

In a July 2 resolution made public only yesterday, the Supreme Court denied "with finality" the Office of the Solicitor General's appeal of the June 1 decision ordering the dismissal of the rebellion charges against the six lawmakers and four civilians for lack of evidence and questionable proceedings.

The high court's second division said the OSG had presented "no substantial argument" in its

SC JUNKS/ A11

TOP DOGS

REUTERS

HEART-KUN is a chihuahua born with a heart pattern on its coat at a dog shop in northern Japan.

SNUPPY is the first dog cloned from adult cells by somatic nuclear cell transfer in Seoul. A South Korean lab that produced the world's first cloned dogs is looking into the business of cloning drug-sniffing dogs. REUTERS

Anakpawis leader, 72, gunned down

By Jeffrey Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—EVEN AS A SUPREME Court-led summit on extrajudicial killings has yet to take off, a 72-year-old coordinator of the militant party-list group Anakpawis was shot and killed inside his house in Nabunturan town in Compostela Valley, a human rights group and the military said yesterday.

Alfonso Capiales was peppered with bullets by one of two unidentified men in front of his children in Barangay Magsaysay on Saturday, according to Kelly Delgado, Karapatan secretary general in Southern Mindanao.

Capiales was also chair of the Magsaysay Farmers Association and an

ANAKPAWIS/ A11

JUAN ESCANDOR/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

HOUSE PROUD: Jay Antonio Meloto III weds GK volunteer Eena Kanapi in Camarines Norte on 7/7/07 in a chapel they built.

Love blooms while building GK homes

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

JOSE PANGANIBAN, CAmarines Norte—They fell in love while helping rebuild people's lives.

For Jay Antonio Meloto III, son of Gawad Kalinga prime mover Antonio Meloto, and Eena Kanapi, love bloomed while working as volunteers with the GK program in Bicol.

To show their commitment to each other and the Gawad Kalinga mission, the two got married in a GK-built chapel and on the much raved-about date, 7-7-07.

They chose the date not because it's believed to be fortuitous but because it represented the GK mission: To build 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in 7 years, with 2010 as the target date for delivery.

The Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation, which won the Ramon Magsaysay award for community leadership in 2006, is dedicated to creating "a nation without slums." Drawing sponsors from expatriate Filipinos, civic organizations, schools, government agencies and big corporations, GK not only builds houses, it also takes care of the health, educational and livelihood needs of the villages.

Today there are 1,400 GK villages, built together by the

LOVE BLOOMS/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/07/10/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Comelec defers Migz proclamation

By Nikko Dizon and Leila B. Salaverria

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (Comelec) has deferred the proclamation of Team Unity's Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri as the 12th and last winning senator which was scheduled today after receiving the Supreme Court's notice of oral arguments on the petition of Genuine Opposition candidate Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, Zubiri's closest rival for the slot.

"Out of respect to the Supreme Court, which called for an oral argument, the commission decided to defer the proclamation of the 12th senator until further notice," James Jimenez, Comelec spokesperson, told reporters in a phone-patched interview.

Based on Comelec's latest tally, Zubiri enjoys an 18,372 vote lead over Pimentel.

At around 3 p.m. yesterday, the Comelec announced it would proclaim Zubiri today, only to announce an hour later that it would be deferred after receiving the high court's notice of oral arguments scheduled at 10 a.m. on Friday.

Malacañang yesterday expressed apprehension over the deferment of the proclamation. "We are very much concerned why it is being delayed. As I've said, Koko has no evidence to probe his claim (about cheating). His only resort is to bring this to the Senate electoral tribunal," Presidential legal adviser Sergio Apostol said.

Preempting SC

The high court also directed Comelec officials and Zubiri to submit their comments on Pimentel's petition by Thursday afternoon.

"The court is hoping the Comelec will not do anything to preempt the decision of the court especially if they are already being directed to file their comment," Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez told reporters.

In scheduling the oral arguments, the high court said it saw the urgency of acting on Pimentel's petition considering that the winner could be declared any time soon. But it also said it has to hear the side of the respondents in the interest of due process.

"That there is a need to positively establish the factual milieu and legal bases for petitioner's right to a TRO and/or status quo ante order; and that the fundamental right to due process so requires, this Court must still accord public respondents Comelec en banc and SPBOC for Maguindanao, as well as private respondent, Zubiri, the opportunity to be heard," the court said.

The oral arguments will tackle Pimentel's prayer to stop the Comelec from proclaiming the 12th winning senator and his main petition to nullify the proceedings of the special provincial board of canvassers in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao and the June 29 proceedings of the Comelec en banc, sitting as the National Board of Canvassers (NBC), which tabulated the controversial returns from the province.

'Make or break'

"This is going to be a make or break for us," Leila de Lima, lawyer of Pimentel, told the INQUIRER following SC's order.

De Lima added that Pimentel's camp was "very gratified and pleased to have yet another chance to convince the SC that the Maguindanao returns were based on manufactured documents" after they have been repeatedly denied "due process" by the special board and the NBC itself.

De Lima said that statistically, Pimentel would win over Zubiri if the Maguindanao votes are not counted in the total tally of the NBC.

"Only because of Maguindanao that he (Pimentel) stands to lose," De Lima said.

The Comelec yesterday had decided to proclaim Zubiri after it dismissed a petition to declare a failure of elections in Bais, Negros Oriental, thus paving the way for the results from the town to be counted in the national canvassing.

Before the deferment, Jimenez told reporters that the Comelec decided to proclaim Zubiri because the results of the uncanvassed CoCs would no longer affect the TU candidate's lead over Pimentel.

Jimenez said the total 10,449 registered voters from Tandubas, Tawi-Tawi, Pantar, Lanao del Norte, and in five precincts in Bogo, Cebu would no longer affect Zubiri's lead over Pimentel.

Including the Bais votes, Zubiri obtained a total of 11,001,730 votes compared to Pimentel's 10,983,358 votes, giving the TU candidate an 18,372 lead to claim the 12th and final Senate seat.

But De Lima said that without the Maguindanao votes, Pimentel would win over Zubiri by over 70,000 votes. *With a report from Mike Lim Ubac*

NO TO FIRST-PARTY RULE. Representatives Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza and Bayan Muna nominee Neri Colmenares make their position known at the Comelec. REM ZAMORA

Bayan Muna hits party-list formula

By Christian V. Esguerra

EVEN IF IT'S ASSURED OF TWO seats in the 14th Congress, Bayan Muna would continue to keep the Commission on Elections from implementing a Supreme Court formula that cuts the number of party-list members in the House of Representatives.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo yesterday wrote the Comelec to complain about the application of the "first-party rule" in determining the number of seats a winning group is entitled to.

Without the rule, Bayan Muna would have kept the three seats it had in the 13th Congress, after it placed second in the last party-list election in May with 927,730 votes.

Bayan Muna had also questioned the rule when it topped the party-list elections in 2001 and 2004.

Ocampo said the rule, also known as the "Panganiban formula," was intended to "marginalize, if not eliminate, progressive party-list groups in Congress."

"That the Arroyo government wants progressive party-list groups out of Congress is no secret," he said.

"The military campaign against progressive party-list groups that signed the impeachment complaints [against Ms Arroyo], the political killings, the attacks against the Batasan 6, the disqualification cases filed in the Comelec, and the entry of Malacañang-backed party-list groups that committed fraud in the elections all point to the intent of President Arroyo to marginalize, if not eliminate, the progressive party-list groups in Congress," Ocampo wrote.

The controversial formula allots a seat for every group that garners at least 2 percent of the total votes cast for party-lists. Additional seats are determined based on a formula related to the number of votes garnered by the top winning group.

Ocampo said the Panganiban formula went against the spirit of the party-list law, which was intended to allow greater representation in Congress for marginalized sectors.

Meanwhile, Gabriela's Liza Maza said yesterday the Comelec might proclaim the second nominees of the winning party-list groups today.

This was what Abalos told her, Ocampo and another Bayan Muna representative, Teddy Casiño, in a meeting yesterday, she said. *With a report from Nikko Dizon*

Bossi text message fake, colleagues say

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A TEXT MESSAGE PURportedly from kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi is a fake, according to Fr. Gianni Battista Sandalo, regional superior of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME).

"The message does not reflect the real Giancarlo Bossi that we know. It was not written in correct Italian. The grammar is wrong and it was addressed to no one in particular," Sandalo said.

The text message that spread on Friday said: *"Ricevuto tuo messaggio fai il possible per la mai ciberazione ultimo messaggio dicono non ristondere."*

Sandalo said the message was in broken Italian and could be translated as "try your own best to free me."

He said Bossi was the type who "will never ever compromise anyone for his safety. He is a person ready to die than compromise anyone."

He said he read the message that was sent to Task Force Bossi chief Col. Jovencio Magalso on Friday, during the visit of Italian parliamentarian Margherita Boniver to this city to check on the progress of the search and rescue operation for the priest.

"I dismissed the message because everything was wrong," Sandalo said.

Wrong grammar

Galib Espital, a relief worker and militiaman from Sumisip, Basilan, who is reportedly an intermediary between someone who is in touch with the abductors and a government official in Cotabato City, told the INQUIRER the "message came from that politician in Basilan."

"He just passed it on to me and he (the politician who is reportedly a Basilan town official) wanted the message to reach Bossi's colleagues in Zamboanga City," Espital said.

Espital said he forwarded the message to Atilano Ade, regional director of the Office of Civil Defense in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao based in Cotabato City.

Ade confirmed to the INQUIRER that he received the message on the night of July 3, "when I was in Cotabato City and Espital wanted the message forwarded to Father Sebastiano D'Ambra."

D' Ambra is president of the Silsilah Dialogue Movement and a colleague of Bossi.

Ade said: "He (D'Ambra) said the message was incorrect, the grammar was wrong and they didn't believe it was from Bossi."

BOSSI

In Rome, meanwhile, the Roman Catholic news agency Asianews on Tuesday said it doubted the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group was behind the abduction of Bossi.

"The theory that the Abu Sayyaf is behind the abduction of Father Bossi does not hold water," the Vatican mouthpiece said, according to AFP.

Asianews is run by PIME, the missionary order to which Bossi belongs.

Gang of criminals

A senior adviser to President Arroyo had linked the Abu Sayyaf to the kidnapping.

But Asianews said the theory did not hold up.

"Rather, from what we know, he is being held by a gang of criminals," it quoted another Italian priest in the Philippines who himself had been kidnapped before, Fr. Luciano Benedetti, as saying.

Members of PIME, in the meantime, have come to this city for a two-day meeting to plan their next move.

"We are hoping for something good. This is Giancarlo's one month in captivity and we are still waiting for his liberation," Sandalo said.

Sandalo and the other missionaries expressed concern for Bossi after studying pictures of the priest taken in captivity.

"He is very thin. He lost about 30 kilos and we know it from his shoulders blades," Sandalo said. *With an AFP report*

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Meralco 'time-of-use' rates OKd

THE ENERGY REGULATORY Commission has given the Manila Electric Co. provisional authority to offer its customers time-of-use (TOU) rates—or prices that vary depending on the time of day, week and month that electricity is used.

Under this scheme, customers will be charged higher rates during peak hours of electricity usage; lower rates during off-peak hours.

Peak hours of the day are identified in Meralco's provisional authority as between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. from Monday to Saturday and between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Sundays. The remaining hours are considered off-peak hours.

The rainy season—between July and September—may also be considered off-peak months.

According to Meralco, consumers can use this scheme to reduce their electricity bills by shifting the use of some electric appliances or machinery to off-peak periods when rates are lower.

The actual rate differences for peak and off-peak hours have yet to be finalized by Meralco.

The scheme will be implemented in phases on a voluntary basis, starting with big industrial users, because customers will have to pay extra for the installation of special meters in their homes or establishments. They will likewise be subject to additional sales charges.

The cost of the new TOU meter has not yet been determined.

ERC chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. said the distribution utility can start offering the TOU rates to its customers upon receipt of the provisional authority. *Abigail L. Ho*

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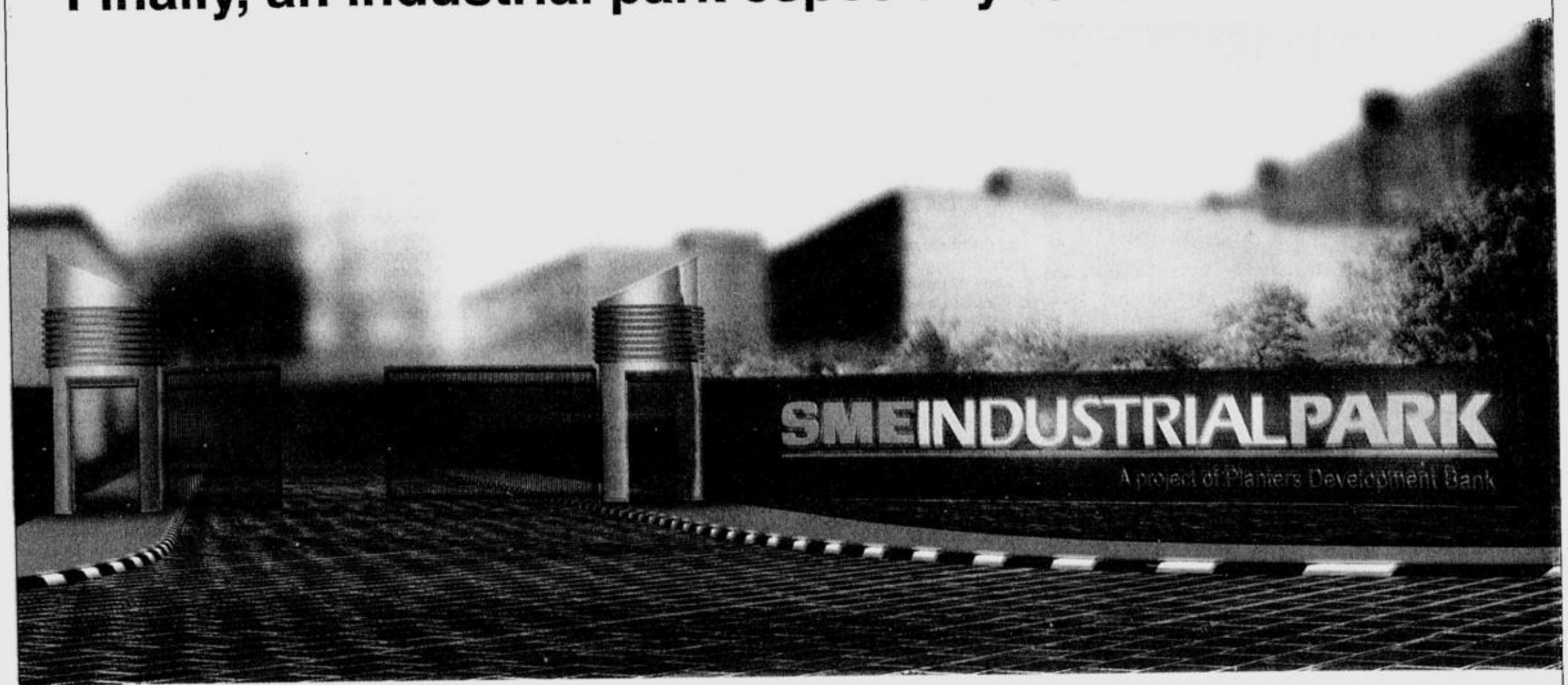

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JDV son hit on broadband deal

By Norman Bordadora and Riza T. Olchondra

SORSOGON REP. JOSE SOLIS yesterday criticized the son of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., for questioning a $330 million broadband connection deal recently signed between the Philippine government and Chinese firm ZTE.

Solis charged that Jose de Venecia III only wanted his Amsterdam Holdings, Inc. (AHI), to get the multi-million dollar deal that will connect national government agencies to local government units through the Internet.

The controversial project, which will reportedly save government up to P3 billion in telephone expenses every year, is backed by a Chinese government loan to the Philippines.

"By itself, there's nothing wrong with Jose de Venecia III attacking the ZTE deal to push the broadband proposal of his own company, Amsterdam Holdings Inc.," Solis said.

"But what shocked me were the reports that AHI is a veritable mom's-and-pop's enterprise with a reported paid-up capital of only P650,000. How can AHI possibly undertake this project when it may not even have enough funds to run a mini grocery?" he claimed.

Solis said that "rightly or wrongly, the public impression will be that Speaker De Venecia was using his influence to enable his son to get a slice of the action in the establishment of a national broadband network."

But Marinelle O'Santos, lawyer for the young De Venecia's company, denied the charge, saying AHI has a paid-up capital of more than P7.2 million and is partnered with Hua Wei, "the largest telecommunications firm in China."

"The ZTE contract will need a Philippine government loan of $330 million. Nonetheless, if the government wants ZTE, so be it. We will just pursue our projects in other countries," O' Santos said.

O'Santos told the INQUIRER that their broadband project bid was strictly a private sector initiative: "Speaker Jose de Venecia has nothing to do with AHI. His son, Jose de Venecia III, is an AHI stockholder and one of the broadband pioneers in the Philippines and Southeast Asia."

O'Santos said it was unfortunate that Solis who is a known ally of speakership challenger Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia would attack De Venecia through De Venecia III and AHI.

"AHI seeks and welcomes a congressional investigation, not opposes it, so the truth will come out," O'Santos said.

Ms Arroyo, Solis claimed, witnessed the signing of the deal between Philippine officials and ZTE executives.

The broadband deal came to prominence when it was reported that the Philippines-ZTE contract and project documents had been stolen while they were being transported by foreign affairs officials from China to the Philippines.

The National Bureau of Investigation, which looked into the mysterious theft, has filed a case against the Philippine commercial attache to China who lost the documents.

Some business and diplomatic quarters have raised questions regarding the transparency and legality of the ZTE broadband deal.

Erap conviction best for GMA, says Miriam

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DEPOSED PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada's conviction for plunder would be in President Macapagal-Arroyo's best interest since she would then avoid a bigger problem, according to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Estrada's six-year plunder trial formally came to a close last month. The Sandiganbayan Special Division that tried him is expected to come out with its decision within 90 days after the case was submitted for decision, or by September.

Santiago, a former regional trial court judge, said she did not want to predict what the verdict would be because she did not attend the trial. Nevertheless, she went on to describe probable scenarios of the outcome.

"If President Estrada is acquitted, we will be in a dilemma. The conclusion could only be that there was no plunder and, therefore, no basis to have removed him from office. What then is the basis for Ms Arroyo's (presidency)? That in itself would create another legal dilemma of mythic proportions," Santiago said.

As the then Vice President, Ms Arroyo assumed office after Estrada was ousted in a people power revolt in January 2001.

Ms Arroyo served Estrada's remaining term up to 2004 and then won a mandate of her own in a highly controversial election against Fernando Poe Jr. that year.

Estrada's conviction then would be in the best interest of the Arroyo administration?

"That's right," Santiago said with a laugh.

Santiago, who was formerly allied with Estrada but has since gone over to Ms Arroyo's side, said the latter could not afford to be perceived as trying to influence the Sandiganbayan.

If she meddles in the case considering all the crises she has lurched from from year to year ... she needs another controversy like she needs a hole in the head," said Santiago.

"So if I were her, no matter how strong the desire to survive, I would keep a 10-foot pole between me and the Sandigan justices," she said.

The President had said she would exercise her prerogative to grant Estrada a pardon if he were convicted.

Estrada, however, has insisted on his innocence and has been quoted as saying he would reject a pardon from Ms Arroyo.

A conviction would not mean the end of the matter, however, since Estrada could appeal the decision in the Supreme Court.

Although the high court is dominated by appointees of Ms Arroyo, Santiago believes the tribunal would decide the case independently.

She said her sense of the judiciary was that "it wants to get this over with."

'No to secret voting'

ONE OF THE STAUNCHEST ALlies of Speaker Jose de Venecia said the House of Representatives yesterday opposed the minority coalition's proposal for a secret balloting to select the Speaker of the House of Representatives in the 14th Congress.

"We are not a secret society, that's why we should not resort to secret voting. We must show our respective constituents where we stand on such an important issue as House leadership," said Rep. Eduardo Zialcita of Parañaque. Resorting to secret balloting would "only result in wild speculations," he said.

Majority members should have the courage to wear their convictions on their sleeves and fear nothing because the vote in the House is a democratic choice, he said. "We should let our people know where we really stand," Zialcita added.

Earlier, Mandaluyong Rep. Neptali Gonzales II said there was no such thing as a "secret balloting" in the House as he shrugged off the proposal to choose its next leader through secret balloting.

Gonzales said the candidate for Speaker either had the number to win or he did not, and those calling for a secret balloting were those who did not have the numbers to begin with.

Allies of Kampi Rep. Pablo Garcia of Cebu, De Venecia's main challenger for the speakership, are proposing a secret balloting, saying congressmen should be able to freely choose the Speaker without fear of reprisal.

Corrections

IN THE JULY 5 ISSUE, a story on Page A2—"Imelda bash raises PCGG eyebrow"—misspelled the name of a piece of property of the Marcoses. The property is the Currimao—not Curimao—Rest House.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, Ramon Tulfo's "On Target" column on Page A18 of the Metro section—"Free Trillanes? You must be kidding"—misstated the year when the Oakwood mutiny took place. The Oakwood mutiny happened in 2003—not 2002.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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GSIS sues press club for sale of mural by Manansala

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE System (GSIS) has filed criminal charges against the board of directors of the National Press Club (NPC) for selling a Manansala mural allegedly owned by the state pension fund.

In its complaint filed last June 27 at the Manila Prosecutor's Office, the GSIS accused the NPC directors of illegally selling the mural painted by National Artist Vicente Manansala which used to adorn the walls of the NPC office.

Named respondents were Roy Mabasa, NPC president; Benny Antiporda, vice president; Louie Logarta, secretary; Jun Cobarrubias, auditor and Amor Virata, treasurer. Also accused were NPC directors Jerry Yap, Alvin Feliciano, Joey Venancio, William Dipasupil, Dennis Fetalino, Joel Sy Egco, Conrad Generoso, Rolly Gonzalo and Samuel Julian.

Anti-fencing

The painting was reportedly sold by the NPC for P10 million to Heritage Arts and Antiques owned by Odette Alcantara, who was also charged with violation of the anti-fencing law.

The GSIS, which claims ownership of the building that houses the NPC, said it was the rightful owner of the mural. The move of the NPC to sell the mural was therefore an act of theft, the GSIS said in a statement.

"There was theft because respondents took the mural owned by GSIS without its consent, with the intent to gain. In fact, they profited from the sale of the property by P10 million," the GSIS said in its complaint-affidavit.

The GSIS said it acquired the NPC building at an auction in 1975.

But the NPC countered that GSIS neither owns the mural nor the building housing the NPC.

NPC spokesperson Toto Causing said the mural, with a theme on the influences of politics and society in general on journalists, was owned by the NPC prior to its sale to Heritage Arts.

Causing said that Manansala was commissioned by the NPC sometime in the 1950s to do the mural, but it was the Lopezes who paid him his talent fee.

Causing said the over 4,000 square meter land where the NPC building is located was donated by the Philippine government to the NPC in the 1950s.

The NPC then borrowed from financial institutions, including the GSIS, to fund the construction of the building. NPC's failure to settle its obligations prompted the GSIS to claim ownership of the land, he said.

He said the late strongman President Ferdinand Marcos ordered that the land be divided into two, so that half would go to the GSIS as payment for NPC's debts.

Thus, the NPC said the portion of the land where its building stands is theirs, and that only the other half is owned by the GSIS.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, July 11, 2007
14th Week in Ordinary Time
Benedict

1st Reading: Gen 41:55-57, 42:5-7, 17-24

Gospel: Matthew 10:1-7

Jesus called his 12 disciples to him and gave them authority over the unclean spirits to drive them out and to heal every disease and sickness.

These are the names of the 12 apostles: first Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon, the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, the man who would betray him.

Jesus sent these 12 on mission with the instruction: "Do not visit pagan territory and do not enter a Samaritan town. Go instead to the lost sheep of the people of Israel.

"Go and proclaim this message: The kingdom of heaven is near."

Commentary

Joseph, sold by his brothers into slavery, has risen to the highest position under Pharaoh in Egypt. Famine strikes, but Joseph has planned ahead and there is much grain available in Egypt. All come to Joseph for food, and his own brothers are in the long lines of those who come begging. He confines them and then tests them-letting all of them go, bringing food to their father and country but insisting that they return with their youngest brother. The brothers see this as retribution for what they did to Joseph. But Joseph weeps for them in his heart although he does not reveal himself to them. They must live with and take responsibility for what they have done—even though God has been their protector and guide all the time.

Jesus chooses 12 disciples in honor of the 12 tribes of Israel—all will be invited to become part of his new community/household of faith. They are named, with bits of detail given to some and the last, being described as the one who betrayed him. They are to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel first and to declare that God's reign is at hand. Today in your community are there 12 who are the leaders (women included) along with bits and pieces of information about them? And there are always those who betray—often it is our own name that is found there.

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From page A1

and put an end to political killings.

She assured the political opposition that they would not be a target of the antiterror law, saying there was a difference between opposition and destabilization.

Minutes after Ms Arroyo finished her speech at the Pryce Plaza, a brownout hit the hotel. Officials said the power outage, lasting an hour, was caused by a bolt of lightning that caused power to trip. Another government source said the brownout was caused by an electrical overload because there were too many guests at the hotel.

Ms Arroyo has swept aside objections to the implementation of the controversial law and said it would take effect as scheduled on Sunday. Among the groups that had expressed concern the law may be used to quell dissent is the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

"Peace and order will prevail over violence and chaos in the southern Philippines," Ms Arroyo said. "I am hereby ordering increased security in vital power and transportation facilities in Mindanao.

"Let us begin implementation of the Human Security Act by using it as a tool to prevent all these multibillion-peso hydroelectric dams and power grids from being whacked by terrorists," she added.

Ms Arroyo said the people had a civic duty to protect essential infrastructure paid for by their taxes.

"Our community assets are at stake in this fight against terrorism," she said. "When they knock down power plants or transmission lines, they create blackouts. When they knock down cell sites, they create erratic cell phone signals. That is not mere inconvenience."

When power blackouts occur due to attacks on vital installations, jobs are lost or disrupted, Ms Arroyo said.

"Therefore, the Human Security Act is about defending our way of life," she said.

She said the hard power of the military presence was "merely to isolate the violent terrorists while our soft power of seeing to the people's needs is expanding the peace every day."

A national stain

Arroyo also vowed to put an end to political killings that had given her administration a black eye.

"We plan to introduce into the new Congress sweeping legislation that will transform our nation's response to political violence and remove this stain from our nation," she said.

This would include measures that would give swift justice through more funding of special courts that prosecute human rights violators, strengthen the rights of victims, provide stiffer penalties for human rights, violators especially those from the military and the police.

"If you are armed and kill innocent civilians, you will be tracked down and prosecuted. If you are a communist terrorist, we will stop you. If you are a religious terrorist, we will stop you. If you are a rogue element of our own police and military, we will stop you," she said.

Ms Arroyo reminded the military and police that "fidelity to the Constitution is a sacred duty."

"These public servants have a moral obligation to uphold the Constitution and to protect the innocent. For this reason any violent crime that a member of the law enforcement or military community may commit against innocent people is even more wrong and must be stopped. No one is above the law."

Ms Arroyo said the military must be professional in fighting terrorists.

Military reform

"Our military must continue on its path to reform. Our military must become even more professional every day at the same time they fight the elements of armed terrorists (and) threats to the nation," she said.

Ms Arroyo said any ideology that undermined stability must be defeated.

"We must stop political violence. We must build a strong system of justice that people can trust," she said.

She said that political violence, including election-related killings, were down this year but still: "Even one death is one death too many for a people fighting to be a part of our democratic society."

"This violence extends to the men and women in media, who have put their lives on the line to do their job," Ms Arroyo said. "We must protect journalists from violence just as we must protect all innocent civilians. So we must all band together and as public servants to stop this violence once and for all."

Warning to communists

Ms Arroyo also served strong warning on communist rebels.

"No less important is to bring political stability to every region so that our people can live in peace, free from fear of harassment, kidnapping and plunder that are so often part of the communist terrorists who flog a failed ideology," she said.

"We cannot stand idly by, however, and let the purveyors of violence cloak their agenda behind innocent men and women they hold hostage to their failed ideology. We will wrestle with these failed terrorists to the ground and free the nation to live in peace and harmony," she said.

Ms Arroyo pledged to uphold civil liberties.

Liberation from poverty

"There is a fundamental difference between those who take up arms and those who take to the ballot box. Our government will protect the political rights of any person who wishes to participate in our democracy however we might disagree on philosophy and approach," she said.

"We are entering a new era of civil and human rights. The frontline of this effort is built on lifting up our poor and liberating them from poverty. This is the most fundamental human right—to live in dignity free from fear of hunger and want," Ms Arroyo said.

Rallies barred near 'summit'

CAGAYAN DE ORO City—Heavy security yesterday kept demonstrators away from the Pryce Plaza Hotel here where President Macapagal-Arroyo spoke at a peace summit to defend the antiterrorism law.

Around 150 protesters from youth, urban poor and workers' organizations instead gathered at the Magsaysay Park away from the hotel, where they denounced the implementation of the Human Security Act.

Kristin Lim of Bayan Muna said militants would hold protests around Mindanao before the law takes effect on Sunday.

"The law gives power to the Anti-Terrorism Council to ban legitimate organizations that are critical of the Arroyo administration by branding them as terrorist," she said.

Lim said the HSA would also legitimize political repression.

The National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) regional chapter here announced it would hold campaigns to increase popular awareness about the implications of the HSA.

Defense Secretary Ricardo Blancaflor told reporters the law had enough safeguards against human rights violations, contrary to what the militants were claiming.

Love blooms while building GK homes

From page A1

residents and thousands of volunteers—from Couples for Christ chapters, Filipino communities abroad, schools and companies in the Philippines, and the ranks of the country's many professionals.

Two volunteers

The younger Meloto and Kanapi confessed they would not have found each other if not for their work as volunteers with the GK program in Bicol.

The two met while helping Bicolanos rebuild their lives and regain their dignity after a series of calamities devastated the region.

Kanapi, 36, was born and raised in Tuguegarao, Cagayan. She lost her mother when she was 7 years old and learned to be responsible at a young age. Later, in her adult life, she assumed the role of mother to her younger siblings.

After graduating with an AB Political Science degree from the University of the Philippines in 1992, she landed a job at Ogilvy & Mather, a top advertising agency with headquarters in New York City.

Rising through the ranks, she became Ogilvy's strategic planning director and was based in Los Angeles, California. Her demanding job took her to different countries.

Fast cars, women

Meloto, 24, is the only boy among four siblings. He went to school at San Beda College and after a few false starts, finished a course in Computer Science.

He was also preoccupied with fast cars, women and *barkada* (friends)—the exact opposite of his priorities in his present post as regional project coordinator of the GK program in Bicol.

After graduation, Meloto flew to the United States in search of better opportunities.

He lived in a Filipino community and met members of the Couples for Christ who showed him videos about the GK program which sparked his interest in missionary work.

Meloto admitted that when he was living in the Philippines, he was never interested in the GK program.

Inspired by the video presentation, Meloto decided in 2004 to leave his job in the United States and return to the Philippines to become a full-time GK volunteer.

Incomplete

Kanapi, who was also in the United States, enjoyed success in her job at Ogilvy but felt incomplete. She wanted to do something that would give a deeper meaning to her life and prayed to God to show her the way.

Sometime before July 2005, she received an invitation to a symposium on the GK program. She was convinced it was God's answer to her prayers and decided to become a volunteer.

On July 1, 2005, Kanapi shocked her coworkers when she resigned from her job at Ogilvy and announced that she would return to the Philippines.

New mission

Kanapi contacted Anna Meloto, older sister of her future husband, who had also given up a lucrative career in Switzerland to work in the GK program.

Anna asked Kanapi if she would like to visit Bicol and help build houses for the poor. Kanapi said yes.

Meloto fetched Kanapi in Magallanes Village, Makati, and together they drove 12 hours to Bicol, where residents had lost their homes after a series of typhoons.

"We were forced to get to know each other in that long trip," Meloto quipped.

Best friends

They became best friends while helping people in Bicol. One day, they realized they were in love—with the work and yes, with each other.

"I find this life (doing voluntary work) exciting and inspiring. This is where I found true peace and happiness. When I was just working for myself, I wasn't completely happy because I saw many Filipinos in need," Kanapi said, describing her new career.

Meloto has been credited with establishing 43 GK villages in a period of two years in the Bicol provinces in partnership with the private sector, government agencies, officials and individuals.

The two have been together for almost three years, and have learned to love the people here. Following Bicol tradition, they participated in the required dance of *pantomina* during the marriage rites.

'Women drawn to men with muscles'

From page A1

and Social Psychology Bulletin, suggests muscles on men is akin to elaborate tail feathers on male peacocks: They attract females looking for a virile mate.

"Women are predisposed to prefer muscularity in men," study author David Frederick of UCLA said.

"Most research is focused on what men find physically attractive in women and the career traits women find attractive in men," Frederick said by telephone. "Much less research is devoted to what women find attractive."

He said prior studies concluded a man's desirability was influenced more by his earning potential and commitment.

Frederick's study, however, found physical characteristics mattered more.

Women were more physically attracted to brawny men, especially for a fling. But when it comes to finding a long-term partner, they tend to pick a regular man over a mate with huge biceps.

"On the one hand, it makes them more sexy to women. On the other hand, it makes women more suspicious about their romantic intentions," Frederick said.

He and colleagues interviewed 99 male undergraduates about their sexual histories. The interviews indicated that muscular men were twice as likely to have had more than three sex partners than less-built types.

Frederick and colleagues also asked 141 college women to look at six standardized silhouettes of men ranging from brawny to slender.

Most of the women preferred a toned man who was more likely to commit over a muscle-bound man they perceived as more volatile, aggressive and dominant. *Reuters*

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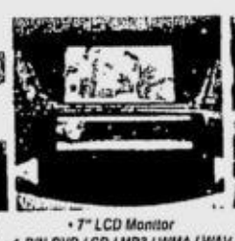

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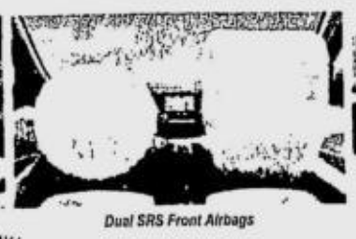

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Comelec revamp? Go for impeachment, CBCP told

By Michael Lim Unbac

REVAMPING THE COMMISSION on Elections at this time would be impossible, Malacañang said yesterday.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and the other commissioners may be removed only by impeachment.

"We accept the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' recommendation regarding the Comelec in the constructive spirit it was given," said Bunye in an interview with reporters.

"But the tenure of Comelec officials is provided for in the Constitution itself. For example, they are to serve for a specific period and cannot be removed except by impeachment," he said.

Instead of revamping the election agency, Bunye said the people should support poll automation.

"We concur with the recommendation that automation is the way to go and this should be done at the earliest opportunity," he said.

"I think we have more than enough time ... to automate and I think that will eliminate all possibilities of irregularities and we will have a process that we can be truly proud of," he said.

Bunye was reacting to the CBCP pastoral statement over the weekend that called for a revamp of the Comelec due to what the bishops said was widespread public distrust of Abalos and the other commissioners.

The CBCP wanted a "full revamp of the Comelec, beginning with the appointment of a new chair and commissioners with unquestioned integrity and competence, especially in systems and management."

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Our objective was simple enough: send deserving students to college so that we could unburden their farmer-parents from tuition worries so that, in turn, they could focus on making their farms more productive. The results surprised us. The children, seeing clearly the golden opportunity to improve their lives, performed excellently in schools.

One Magna cum laude and 40 cum laude made a mark in the 915 graduates for Batch 2007 under the President Diosdado Macapagal Agrarian Scholarship Program (PDMASP) or fondly known as Agraryo Iskolar.

PDMASP is one of the special programs of the Department of Agrarian Reform that supports the mandate of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to combat poverty through the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program and finally free the countryside from decades of destitution.

Initiated four years ago, the scholarship program drew inspiration from the true-to-life story of "Dadong" Macapagal, a farmers' son who determinedly worked himself up from poverty to become one of the most patriotic visionary-leaders of the land. That, after being sent to school by a philanthropist in his town.

"To paraphrase John F. Kennedy, our nation's great leaders were also great scholars," enthused DAR Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman who credits President Diosdado Macapagal for having the vision and the courage to initiate land reform in the Philippines.

"The children of the CARP farmer-beneficiaries are enjoined to take up agriculture or agrarian-based courses to be able to help their parents with modern farm productivity viewpoints in particular and uplift their communities in general," said Director Teresita L. Panlilio, PDMASP National Project Director.

Agraryo Iskolars are granted supplementary tuition, book allowance, and stipend. DAR salutes the graduates for their quest for new knowledge and new status in life.

DAR Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman, assisted by PDMASP National Project Director Teresita Panlilio honor the Agraryo Iskolar Graduates who did axtremely well in school.

AGRARIAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM / HONOR GRADUATES-SY 2006-07

Region	Province	Name	Course	School	Honors Received
CAR	Ifugao	1. Israel B. Dao-anis	Bachelor of Science in Education	Benguet State University	cum laude
1	Ilocos Sur	2. Florence Ibarra	BS in Cooperatives Management	University of Northern Philippines	cum laude
		3. Ma. Cristina Pando	BS in Business Administration	University of Northern Philippines	cum laude
	La Union	4. Rommel C. Berganio	Bachelor of Elementary Education	Don Mariano M Marcos State U.	cum laude
	Pangasinan	5. Lani B. Malloat	Bachelor of Elementary Education	Don Mariano M Marcos State U	cum laude
2	Cagayan	6. Jose G. Bueno	Bachelor in Agricultural Technology	Cagayan State University	cum laude
		7. Loemar A. Mariñas	Bachelor in Agricultural Technology	Cagayan State University	cum laude
	Isabela	8. Roderick N. Revilloza	Bachelor of Science in Fisheries	Isabela state University	cum laude
		9. Visitacion L. Arugay	Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship	Isabela state University	cum laude
		10. Rickson T. Baldugo	Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	Isabela state University	cum laude
3	Bulacan	11. Rowel S. Alberto	BS in Agricultural Management	Bulacan National State College	cum laude
		12. Raymond I. Canoza	BS in Agricultural Management	Bulacan National State College	cum laude
		13. Jeffrey DC. Villacoba	BS in Animal Husbandry	Bulacan Agricultural State college	cum laude
		14. Cynthia F. Nuñez	BS in Agricultural Management	Bulacan National State College	cum laude
4-a	Quezon 1	15. Vener Armamento	Bachelor of Science in Accountancy	Southern Luzon Polytechnic College	cum laude
5	Albay	16. Aiza Diaz	BS in Business Administration	Bicol University	cum laude
		17. Anna Francine Reora	AB Economics	Bicol University	cum laude
	Catanduanes	18. Lotis Tura	Bachelor in Elementary Education	Catanduanes State College	cum laude
	Masbate	19. Gerard Cortez	BS in Industrial Technology	DEBESMSCAT	cum laude
		20. Ruth Ann Dumaguin	Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	DEBESMSCAT	cum laude
	Sorsogon	21. Jasmin Hibay	Bachelor in Secondary Education	Sorsogon State College	cum laude
6	Negros Occidental	22. Dorlyn M. Alcontin	Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	Negros State College of Agriculture	cum laude
		23. Leah A. Barredo	BS in Agricultural Technology	Northern Negros State College of Sciences	cum laude
		24. Jose Arnel E. Cordova	Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	Negros State College of Agriculture	cum laude
		25. Alizer E. Honorario	Bachelor in Secondary Education	Negros State College of Agriculture	magna cum laude
		26. Virginia O. Allones	Bachelor in Secondary Education	Negros State College of Agriculture	cum laude
		27. Cezar V. Moyong	Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	Negros State College of Agriculture	cum laude
		28. Hermie A. Pajarillo	Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	Negros State College of Agriculture	cum laude
		29. Carlos P. Villaplaza	BS in Agricultural Technology	Northern Negros State College of Sciences	cum laude
	Iloilo	30. Christine Carl Arre	Bachelor in Elementary Education	Concepcion Polytechnic College	cum laude
		31. Milona Amor C. Capanang	Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	Western Visayas College of Science & Tech.	cum laude
		32. Irene V. Legaspi	Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	West Visayas State University	cum laude
		33. Darwin S. Viadumang	Bachelor in Elementary Education	Iloilo College of fisheries	cum laude
	Aklan	34. Michelle M. Isada	Bachelor in Secondary Education	Aklan State University	cum laud
6	Aklan	35. Cecille M. Maquirang	Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	Aklan State University	cum laude
		36. Niña Fe R. Tejada	Bachelor in Secondary Education	Aklan State University	cum laude
	Capiz	37. Connie Mae V. Velado	Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	Capiz State University	cum laude
8	Western Samar	38. Rutchie Calutan	BS Food & Nutrition	Samar State College of Agriculture & Forestry	cum laude
11	Oriental Davao	39. Irish Cañas	Bachelor of Science in Agriculture	Davao Oriental State College of Science & Tech.	cum laude
12	Sarangani	40. Rytchel Sanglap	Bachelor in Elementary Education	Mindanao State University	cum laude
ARMM	Maguinadano	41. Ramjie Odin	Bachelor of Science in Fisheries	Mindanao State University	cum laude

SULONG AGRARYO! SENTRO ANG TAO!

DAR Department of Agrarian Reform

Storm to bring rains today

By TJ Burgonio

A SEVERE TROPICAL storm is expected to hit the Philippines today, bringing heavy rains to the western section of Luzon and Visayas, weather bureau officials said yesterday.

The tropical storm (international name "Man-yi") is expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility at around 8 a.m. or earlier and dump heavy rains in Palawan, Mindoro, Panay island and Batangas, officials said.

"By tomorrow, we expect heavy rains in the western section of Visayas and Luzon," senior weather specialist Robert Sawi of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said in an interview. "It will also rain here in Manila, but [it will] not be as intense as the rains in western Visayas and Luzon."

Pagasa had earlier forecast the storm to hit the country at around noon today.

As of yesterday morning, the storm (local name "Bebeng") was spotted 300 km away from the Philippine area of responsibility, and less than 1,300 km east of Samar.

It was packing maximum winds of 95 kph, up from Monday's 65 kph and intensified into a severe tropical storm. It might further intensify into a typhoon before it reaches land, according to Sawi.

"Since it will pass through seas, it might intensify into a typhoon before it reaches the country," he said.

Sawi advised fishermen in Mindoro, Palawan and Panay in western Visayas, and Batangas in southern Luzon not to set out to sea starting today until the cyclone exits the country.

And since there was no storm signal, Sawi said it was up to school officials to cancel classes if necessary.

"There will be surges of the southwest monsoon and strong gusts of wind in those areas," he said, pointing out that the storm was moving at a speed of 22 kph with gustiness of 120 kph.

The storm, which was moving west-northwest, was forecast to exit the country toward Taiwan by Friday.

Northern Luzon will be spared but will experience rains brought by southwesterly winds from the Indian Ocean after the storm leaves the country, according to Sawi.

The storm is the second cyclone to hit the country after "Amang" in May this year. Pagasa expects 13 cyclones between now and September.

Movie-TV board suspends Fr. Nico

By Marinel R. Cruz
Entertainment

A MEMBER OF THE Movie and Television Review and Classification Board has been suspended after the Office of the Ombudsman found him guilty of "simple misconduct" for "shouting and belittling" his colleague.

Msgr. Nico Bautista was suspended "without pay" for a month after fellow board member, Carmella Padilla, complained that Bautista had yelled at her, according to a resolution from the Office of the Ombudsman, signed by Israel Lay-At, graft investigation and prosecution officer.

Questioning

Bautista was also found guilty of questioning MTRCB chair Marissa Laguardia "with disrespect" for the latter's decision to appoint Padilla as head of a review subcommittee.

According to an incident report dated Jan. 18, 2005 filed by technician Elias Pura, Bautista and board member Benjamin Bernales (now deceased) "shouted not only at Padilla but also at Laguardia," Lay-At's resolution stated.

Reprehensible act

"Such act of yelling and arrogantly questioning one's superior for the latter's decision and/or appointment does not characterize a (good) public official," it added.

"To shout with disrespect at one's colleague and superior is a reprehensible act ... As such, Bautista should therefore be held administratively liable for simple misconduct," according to the resolution.

'Lack of direction'

In 2004, Bautista called for Laguardia's immediate replacement for "graft and corruption, immorality and misuse of funds."

In a one-page letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Bautista also accused Laguardia of "lack of direction and unimaginative leadership."

In turn, Laguardia described Bautista's accusations as "malicious and baseless."

F. Paraan; 41

FERDINAND PARAAN Sr. of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya and former chief security officer of Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, died of renal failure arising from diabetes on July 9 at their Quezon City home. He was 41.

He is survived by wife Rowena, children Sierra Mae, Ferdinand Jr. and Glenna Rossa, and parents Apolonio and Rosalina Paraan. His body lies at Arlington Memorial Chapels in Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, at Loyola Memorial Park in Parañaque City.

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Reds target of terror law

From page A1

courts that would handle the outlawing of the CPP-NPA and the Abu Sayyaf.

Section 17 of the HSA provides that on the DOJ's request, any group organized to commit terrorism, sow panic and coerce the government to give in to an unlawful demand could be declared terrorist and an outlawed organization by a competent regional trial court.

US and EU terror tag

Ermita said the government would follow the US and European Union classification of the CPP-NPA and the Abu Sayyaf as terrorist organizations.

"Therefore, we have to go by that. We cannot unilaterally say they are delisted because it's not the Philippine government (that classified them)," Ermita said.

The United States has classified the CPP-NPA as a foreign terrorist organization since 2002, making it illegal for people in the United States or subject to US jurisdiction to provide material support to the group.

The classification also requires US financial institutions to block assets of the CPP, which has waged a 38-year-long Maoist campaign to seize power in the country.

The Abu Sayyaf, a group of self-styled Islamic extremists blamed for the worst terrorist attacks in the country and a spate of kidnappings, has been on the US list of active international terrorist organizations for several years now.

Partly because of the US and EU terror tag, the National Democratic Front, the political arm of the CPP, has pulled out of the peace talks with the Philippine government.

Repressive

Jose Ma. Sison, founding chair of the CPP, called the HSA "a repressive tool of the Arroyo regime for intimidating and suppressing the people's democratic movement and the broad range of opposition forces."

In a statement issued on July 6, Sison said the implementation of the antiterror law would lead to unbridled human rights violations.

"It effectively sets aside due process and presumption of innocence by hounding and pouncing on individuals on the basis of mere suspicion and raw intelligence, attacks the freedom of thought and belief, expression, association, assembly, right to privacy and other fundamental rights," said Sison, chief political consultant of the NDF.

The antiterrorism law is the first in the Philippines specifically to address terrorist offenses, defining terrorism as a criminal act that "causes widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace."

The passage of the law was praised by the United States and Australia, the Philippines' staunchest antiterror allies.

Timetable

Ermita said he would convene the Anti-Terror Council tomorrow or Friday to discuss the procedures and timetable for the outlawing or proscription of the terror groups.

He said there might be no need for the government to formally declare the CPP-NPA or the Abu Sayyaf terror groups.

"We will find out from the DOJ if there is a need for us to make further announcement considering they are already listed as foreign terrorist organizations," Ermita told reporters on the plane to Cagayan de Oro where President Macapagal-Arroyo addressed a peace and order summit on the HSA.

Long process

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, the acting defense secretary and a member of the council, said the proscription process could start as soon the law takes effect on Sunday.

"But it is a long process," Gonzales said.

Despite the US and EU classification of the CPP-NPA as a foreign terrorist organization, the Philippine government has to follow the requirement for proscription under the HSA, according to Gonzalez.

He said it was the special courts that can outlaw a group.

'Criticism now terrorism?'

In the Senate, Sen. Mar Roxas questioned the undue rush by Ms Arroyo to implement the HSA on July 15 even without the implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

"To proceed with the July 15 deadline without a set of IRR defeats human rights because the line between national security imperatives and human freedom may not be clear to every law enforcer. I urge the government to go slow and do it right. Better to err on the side of human rights than to breed tyranny," said Roxas, one of the few senators who voted against the HSA's passage in the Senate.

"For a law that allows wire tapping, house arrests, prohibition to travel and seizure of properties, a set of IRRs will shield the people against abuse," he said.

For his part, Rene Saguisag, of the Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity and Nationalism (Mabini), said the government should issue the IRR before rushing to implement the antiterrorism law.

"They should draw up the rules of their game. There's too much discretion. Given the sorry record of human rights, it's really scary. Is our criticism now considered terrorism?" Saguisag said.

Saguisag, among those at the forefront in the fight against the Marcos regime, described the HSA as a subtler but a more insidious form of martial law.

He said it was disturbing that the government was rushing the HSA's implementation.

"Where's the fire? Even in minor matters, we wait for the guidelines ... What's the agenda? Is it to please the Americans?" he said. "They rush the implementation without any clear rules for something with far-reaching consequences on human rights and dignity."

He said he was not convinced about the merits of the HSA, which he described as a "debatable, if not very bad law" and another form of oppression.

Killing of suspects

Saguisag also warned that the penalty imposed by the HSA on erring law enforcers, including a a fine of P500,000 a day, could lead the custodians to decide to kill the person they had detained.

"No one can afford that. What we're afraid of is the custodian will kill the potential complainant. For every day of detention there is a fine, so he'll just send him to the promised land," he said.

He also said the objectives of the HSA could be achieved by implementing existing laws. "All the things they want done can be done by zealous law enforcers," he said.

But UP law professor Thedore Te said there was no need for IRR for the HSA to be enforced, but said the absence of the IRR would make the law "easier to void."

"A penal statute does not need IRR for implementation. The fuss over IRR is that the law is so badly written that government intends to remedy the flaws in the law by legislating through the IRR," Te said.

He also said the HSA was open to question before the courts, but somebody had to be arrested, placed under surveillance or labeled first under the law or its implementing guidelines.

Safeguard

In Cagayan de Oro, Defense Undersecretary Ric Blancaflor, spokesperson of the Anti-Terror Council, defended the HSA.

Blancaflor said apprehensions about the law were unfounded considering that it has 22 provisions against abuse by law enforcement agencies as against four against the terrorists.

"You can never have a better safeguard than that," Blancaflor said at a press conference at the Pyrce Hotel. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and AFP*

Gov't raps vs 6 militant lawmakers 'politically motivated,' says IPU

By Christian V. Esguerra

AS THOUGH IT TIMED IT PERfectly, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has released its final mission report concluding that the Philippine government's charges of rebellion against six militant lawmakers and their respective party-list groups were "politically motivated."

The INQUIRER yesterday was furnished a copy of the report—the findings of a delegation from the 118-year-old international organization of parliamentarians that looked into the plight of Representatives Satur Ocampo, Joel Virador and Teodoro Casiño of Bayan Muna, Liza Maza of Gabriela, and Rafael Mariano and Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis. The inquiry was conducted on April 18-21.

Tenacity

"The sequence and tenacity of the authorities in filing sedition, rebellion and murder charges and, more recently disqualification cases, against Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela lends the impression that everything is being done to remove the parliamentarians concerned and their parties from the political process," the IPU said in the 17-page report prepared by its committee on the human rights of parliamentarians.

"It is difficult to believe that the cases were brought by pure coincidence, as it was claimed before the delegation with respect to the disqualification case," it said.

The delegation interviewed at least 14 top government and human rights officials, including Speaker Jose de Venecia, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, former Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane and Commission on Human Rights Chair Purificacion Quisumbing, in the course of its inquiry.

In its report, the IPU said no less than the national security adviser had admitted to its delegation that the government's Inter-Agency Legal Group took "nine months" to prepare the rebellion charges against 50 people, including the six lawmakers.

Quoting Gonzales, the IPU said the government action was aimed at obtaining a "judicial determination" on the legality of the Communist Party of the Philippines under Philippine laws.

The IPU recalled that during the inquiry, the government officials interviewed "expressed the conviction" that the six lawmakers were CPP members. However, it noted, the CPP had yet to be "outlawed."

"The delegation wishes to place on record that Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela are duly constituted political parties under the law of the Philippines," the IPU said.

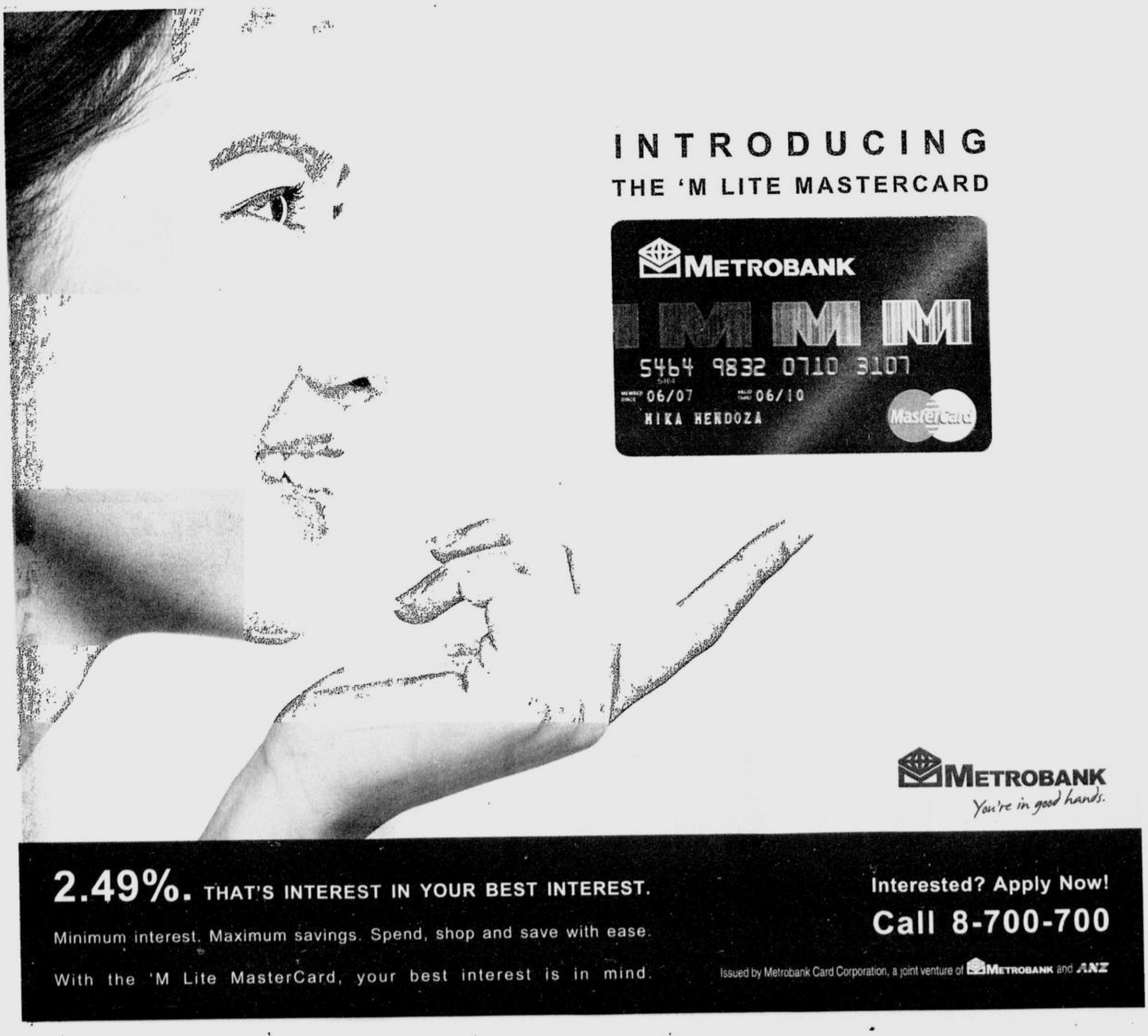
"The authorities have not mentioned, nor has the delegation heard of, any accusations of any unlawful activities by these parties," it said.

Political persecution

The IPU also pointed out that there was "no court judgment authorizing anyone to label these parties as illegal organizations or their members and leaders as rebels or murderers."

"Apart from the fact that the very notion of 'enemies of the state' smacked of political persecution, the delegation fears that the attitude of the authorities reveals a strong presumption of guilt, which, in turn, raises serious doubts as to the motives underlying the proceedings in question," it said.

Established in 1889, the IPU is an organization of 140 national parliaments, including those of Canada, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.



4 killed in Bossi search operation, say Marines

By Julie S. Alipala, *Inquirer Mindanao* and Christine O. Avendaño *in Manila*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—PHILIPPINE Marines helping in the search for kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi reportedly suffered heavy casualties in a clash in Basilan yesterday with Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) forces, officials said.

Marine spokesperson Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan said sketchy reports reaching his office said four Marines were killed, nine others wounded and 10 were missing in the encounter. But Albarka Mayor Jakilan Karam claimed the Marines suffered 27 dead and the MILF three fatalities in the clash in Barangay Ginanta in his town.

Caculitan said the Marines, numbering about 40 to 50, were returning to headquarters in the capital Isabela when they were ambushed by about 300 lawless elements, including Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The fighting started at around 9:30 a.m. and ended at around 7 p.m.

Karam said on the phone that a military truck and two dump trucks were torched by the rebels.

The mayor said the encounter occurred during search and rescue operations for Bossi. *(Related story on Page A2.)*

Karam said the Marines were initially pursuing Abu Sayyaf bandits, led by a certain Nurhassan Jamiri, who were reportedly holding Bossi.

The Abu Sayyaf eluded the Marines by running toward an area where the MILF forces were and it was there that the Marines and the MILF guerrillas clashed, Karam said.

Regular operations

Caculitan initially told the INQUIRER the Marines were conducting regular security operations which, he said, included efforts to confirm reports that Bossi "is in the area."

Bossi was abducted by armed men on June 10 in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay.

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SC junks rebellion raps vs 'Batasan 6' with finality

From page A1

appeal "to warrant the reconsideration sought." It also noted Beltran's motion seeking his release.

Judge Elmo Alameda of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 issued yesterday an order for the chief of the Philippine National Police Custodial Center in Camp Crame to "immediately release" Beltran unless he was being held "for other lawful cause."

Beltran was released from the hospital at 9:30 p.m.

'Setback'

Malacañang, through Presidential Legal Adviser Sergio Apostol, said the high court's decision was a "setback."

Apostol said it was up to the OSG to "evaluate the government position" on the issue. "Of course, this is a setback. We would like to get a copy of the decision through the [OSG]," he said.

In its June 1 decision written by Justice Antonio Carpio, the high court ordered the Makati RTC to dismiss the rebellion case that the government had filed against the 10 respondents.

It warned the Department of Justice not to allow "political considerations" to affect its actions, and also said the preliminary investigation of the rebellion case against several of the respondents was fraught with irregularities that "trivialized the investigation" and lent credence to the contention that the proceedings were "a sham."

"We cannot emphasize too strongly that prosecutors should not allow, and should avoid, giving the impression that their noble office is being used or prostituted ... for political ends or other purposes alien to, or subversive of, the basic and fundamental objective of serving the interest of justice evenhandedly, without fear or favor to any all litigants alike, whether rich or poor, weak or strong, powerless or mighty," the decision read in part.

Beltran was taken into police custody shortly after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a state of emergency in February 2006. He had been under "hospital arrest" at the Philippine Heart Center since April 2006 for treatment of hypertension and other ailments, but remained Anakpawis' chief nominee in the May 14 elections.

Yesterday morning, Beltran's blood pressure was a relatively normal 140/90. In the afternoon when he learned of Alameda's release order, he said he felt well and did not believe that his blood pressure had risen because of excitement.

"I am ready to return to Congress to continue the fight for Anakpawis. I am ready to start working. I can again file bills and resolutions," he said.

P1.3-M bill

But there is one possible source of stress for Beltran—a hospital bill of P1.3 million.

"We've been told by the hospital that we should at least pay P100,000 up front. The hospital and [Anakpawis] are now discussing how the bill can be settled," Beltran said.

Ina Silverio, Beltran's chief of staff, told the INQUIRER that Anakpawis had guarantee letters and some "cash on hand" to address the problem of the bill. The Beltran family also signed a promissory note.

"We don't see it as a hindrance to his release," Silverio said.

Beltran waited for word in his hospital room with Bagong Alyansang Makabayan chair Carol Araullo, activist-priest Fr. Joe Dizon and Anakpawis members.

His wife Rosario was at their Quezon City home preparing for his homecoming, and their children were with Romeo Capulong, chief legal counsel of the lawmakers, in Camp Crame to secure his release from police custody.

Capulong said later that criminal and administrative charges would be filed against the persons and agencies responsible for Beltran's long detention.

"Many rights were violated. There was unlawful arrest and arbitrary detention. [Beltran's] rights were violated, particularly his immunity from arrest as a member of Congress..." Capulong said.

Political color

In its motion seeking reconsideration of the high court's June 1 decision, the OSG led by Agnes Devanadera warned against the glorification of rebels.

The OSG also:

- Contested the finding of political color in the prosecution's actions, and requested the high court en banc to rule on its motion.
- Maintained there was enough evidence to back the rebellion charges against the respondents and questioned the dismissal of the cases without the lawmakers themselves asking for it.
- Pointed out that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's purportedly political statement against the respondents—that the Department of Justice "will just declare probable cause, then it's up to the court to decide"—was not used in the finding of probable cause to file the rebellion charges.
- Said Gonzalez's statement only reflected the legal procedure to be followed in determining where there was basis to file the charges.

In Beltran's case, the OSG said witnesses' testimony, plus his background as a leader of a labor group regularly criticizing the government and a Left-leaning lawmaker, were among the evidence used by the prosecution.

It said there were witnesses who heard Beltran utter "flaming words" and call for Ms Arroyo's ouster as he led followers in a demonstration at the People Power Monument in Quezon City that later turned violent.

Gratitude

Beltran said he owed his freedom to "the thousands of Filipinos who campaigned on my behalf and against the political repression of the Arroyo administration."

He expressed gratitude to his lawyers, Romeo Capulong, Rachel Pastores and Amyln Sato who, he said, "all worked very hard to assert my innocence and to gather support for my case."

Beltran also thanked friends and allies among his colleagues in the House of Representatives "who crossed party lines and extended both moral and financial help."

He expressed particular thanks to Sen. Jamby Madrigal who, he said, "made frequent visits and kept my spirits up," as well as then Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Roseller Barinaga, "who fought for the P125 wage hike bill in Congress with the same fervor and energy as I would have."

Beltran was the principal author in the last Congress of the bill seeking an across-the-board increase of P125 in the minimum wage. The measure passed the House but was recalled by the chamber after a number of congressmen raised questions on its legality.

Drop the cases

Bayan Muna's Ocampo called on the administration to drop "trumped-up cases" against progressive party-list groups and to "respect the renewed mandate" of the people who had voted for them.

"It's very evident that the cases filed against us were without basis of the law and also a violation of our right to due process," he told reporters at the Commission on Elections following a meeting with Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. on Bayan Muna and Gabriela's protest against the First Party Rule.

Among the cases that Ocampo mentioned were the multiple-murder charges filed against him in Leyte and against Casiño, Maza, Mariano and himself in Nueva Ecija, which were used in the election disqualification case lodged against their party-list groups.

The disqualification case filed by two women claiming that their husbands had been ordered killed by Ocampo and company was eventually dismissed by the Comelec. *With reports from DJ Yap, Nikko Dizon, Jeannette I. Andrade and Michael Lim Ubac*

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Anakpawis member ...

From page A1

officer of the Nagkahiusang Magguuma sa Nabunturan.

He was the 37th Anakpawis member to be killed since 2001, when President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office, and the 304th murdered activist, according to an INQUIRER count.

Alarmed by the seemingly unending spate of killings of activists, Chief Justice Reynato Puno has called for a July 16-17 multisectoral summit to tackle the problem and vowed to summon the Supreme Court's "expanded powers" under the Constitution as a guardian of civil liberties.

Different versions

As in most of the killings, the military and Karapatan gave different versions of the circumstances behind the murder of Capiales.

Maj. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson of the Eastern Mindanao Command, confirmed the attack but added that the militant was actually a military informer. Delgado said that "state agents" were behind the labor leader's death.

The human rights leader quoted an unidentified witness as saying one of the assassins, a certain Lucio, entered the victim's house and shot him.

Three days before he was killed, Delgado said Capiales was summoned by the military to the Magsaysay barangay hall on suspicion that he was a member of the communist New People's Army (NPA). Capiales turned down the "invitation," he said.

The military, he said, "is hunting down members of militant organizations and farmers groups upon suspicion that they are members of the communist groups."

Military informer

Cabangbang said the allegation was unfounded. "It is possible that the NPA was behind the death of Capiales," he said, adding: "It is their (rebels') doctrine to kill military informers."

Capiales "was a military asset who had been cooperating with our team in Nabunturan," Cabangbang said. "He was giving vital information to our forces regarding the NPA activities in the area before he was killed."

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Lemming leadership

EDITORIAL

LIKE LEMMINGS, THOSE RODENTS THAT JUMP off cliffs in a kind of mass hysteria, our officialdom seems to have committed to the so-called Human Security Act unthinkingly, and want to rush its implementation with a self-destructive firmness of purpose. The other day, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines appealed to the government to review the antiterror law. But President Macapagal-Arroyo's response was a firm no. With or without implementing rules and regulations, she said, the law goes into effect on Sunday.

Like lemmings, the President's leap of faith—leaping from the cliff straight into an ocean of public doubt—has been followed by mass acts of logical suicide. A public consultation was held in Cagayan de Oro City, but minus the public.

To be fair, it isn't just the Executive Branch that's displaying lemming-like behavior. Senators who voted for the law now seem to have second thoughts, because the bishops have spoken. "The law really needs to be reviewed to make it more responsive to the security demands of the country as well as the entire region," Sen. Panfilo Lacson was quoted as saying. So why then did he participate in rushing its passage? Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said, "It is a good move to enhance the protection of the human rights of the people. But I will not shed a tear should the law be totally scrapped." So then why didn't he just vote against it in the first place? Like lemmings, the Senate followed the administration's lead, took a leap of faith—only to question their taking the plunge.

As it is, the United States has already given Ms Arroyo a pat on the back for her administration's antiterrorism efforts. And since the Constitution forbids ex post facto laws, even administration officials have pointed out that every political organization, even those it has labelled as terrorist groups prior to the passage of the law, begins with a clean slate. So the law isn't really useful, immediately, in fighting communists. Besides, because of international pressure, both the government and the New People's Army now seem more inclined to return to the bargaining table.

Neither is it particularly useful for fighting terrorism in Mindanao. News from the Mindanao peace process is promising, with the thorny issue of territorial demands by Moro rebels having been worked out. And as for the captors of Fr. Giancarlo Bossi, the situation remains unresolved, and so it's premature to even start thinking of what kind of charges should be filed. (If it ends bloodily, for example, will there be anyone left alive to even hale to court?)

It is actually a very good time to pause, take stock of the HSA, and subject it to a little more legal scrutiny and additional public discussion. That is, unless the real reason the President is so intent on having the law go into effect is that the administration has turned into a nervous wreck. Over what? How partisans of the disgraced former president, Joseph Estrada, will react to the Sandiganbayan's verdict on the plunder case he is facing.

But if our suspicion is correct, then it indicates that the law is less about terrorism, and more about expanding the administration's arsenal of legal powers that can be used to clamp down on the opposition. Something useful, incidentally, to strongmen-in-waiting, which is why a presidential aspirant like Lacson was willing to oblige the administration with regard to the HSA. He might find it useful to use one day.

This is not the time for the country to be stampeded into adopting willy-nilly a law whose implementing regulations have yet to be finalized. Even assuming that the law, as it stands, might be beneficial, suspending it prior to every election is ridiculous. What Congress should have done, as other nations that have passed similar legislation decided to do, is give the law a fixed duration, say, one year. After which, it must be passed, once more, by Congress, which then affords an opportunity for review and revision. As it is, the law's defenders grumble that the law lacks teeth while its opponents denounce it as too vague.

This is too important a measure for the public to jump off the cliff on the President's mere say-so.

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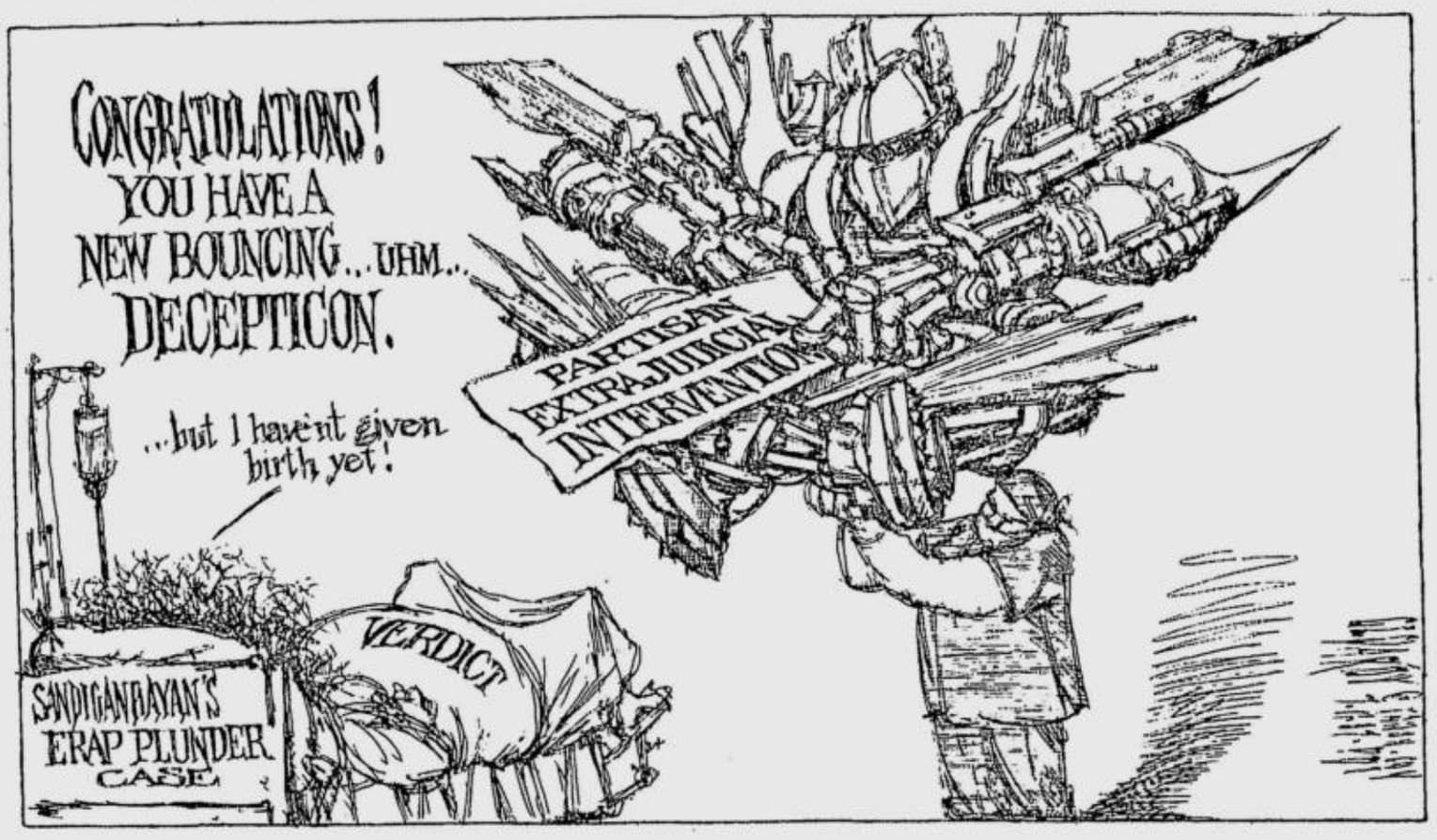

Abalos and Lim at Kapihan sa Manila

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, THE COMmission on Elections may have already proclaimed Migz Zubiri as the 12th elected senator. Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos told the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday that canvassing of the remaining certificates of canvass would be finished that very same day and since Zubiri was already leading Koko Pimentel and was expected to get more votes in the last CoCs, he might be proclaimed at the end of the day. That is, if Pimentel is not able to get a temporary restraining order.

That does not mean the fight is over. Pimentel will surely file a protest with the Senate Electoral Tribunal. But judging from the previous records of electoral tribunals, his protest will not be finished until a few days before the term ends and after he will have spent millions of pesos more. Pimentel will want the canvassers to go back to the election returns—and perhaps even to the ballots—since the municipal CoCs are unreliable.

But since only the Maguindanao votes would be recounted, it should not take so long. Still, Zubiri's lawyers will try to delay the counting for as long as possible. Their client is sitting in the saddle already, so the longer it takes, the better for him.

The Election Code should be amended to make it difficult for cheaters. (This should not be interpreted as saying that Zubiri cheated. Still the possible manipulation—without his knowledge—of the CoCs benefited him. The provincial CoC had Chavit Singson as the topnotcher. When the municipal CoCs were counted, Zubiri topped the count. What happened?)

At present, it is very difficult for those cheated. Not only is a poll protest very expensive, the process is also very slow. By the time a case is finished, very little of the term is left. If a protester wins, usually it is only *consuelo de bobo*. The cheater has already collected almost all of the salaries and allowances, and pork barrel, of the rightful winner. What he wins is an empty victory. That is why the battle is for a candidates' proclamation. Once a cheater is proclaimed, it is almost impossible to get him out of the stolen position. The present law favors cheaters.

I think the law should be amended so that if, after a quick preliminary investigation of a poll protest, a prima facie case is found, the salary and allowances for the position should be frozen and then given to whoever wins the protest. That should discourage cheaters.

* * *

The other guest at the Kapihan was Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim who told the audience that the rally at Mendiola by supporters of Joseph Estrada was, contrary to fears of the administration, peaceful.

"That's what happens when you allow people to rally freely," Lim said. "Trouble erupts only when the police try to stop them. Let them rally to their heart's content to let off steam. Give them an opportunity to air their grievances. How will you know their grievances and address them if you don't allow them to talk? Preventing them (from airing their grievances) is like covering a kettle of boiling water. The steam can't escape and when there's too much, the kettle explodes."

Lim clarified, however, that Mendiola is open only on weekends so as not to disturb the students in nearby schools during school days. Plaza Miranda, Plaza Bonifacio and other parks, however, are open at all hours of the day or night, he said.

Speaking of parks, the Arroceros forest park which the Winner Foundation used to treat like its own private property and closed to the general public, will be open to the public at all hours. Winner will rehabilitate it but it belongs to the public. "What's the use of a park if it is closed?" Lim said.

The steel-and-concrete fence will be removed. A brook and pond with fish and water fowls will be added. Park benches and picnic tables will be scattered all over the park. There will be abundant lighting to make the place safe even at night and to discourage drug users and other criminals from using it. There may even be a petting zoo with goats, sheep, pigs, ducks and chicken, and rabbits so that city children will be familiar with and be kind to farm animals.

When the nearby Metropolitan Theater is rehabilitated and reopened for performances, the audience can go to the park for cocktails and snacks during intermissions. Lim said the rehabilitation of the Metro will be finished within the year. It will be the venue for *zarzuelas*, stage shows, vaudeville, folk dances and other shows for the *masa* while the Cultural Center caters to the elite who prefer the highbrow stuff, he said.

As for the rehabilitation of Avenida Rizal, Lim said the removal of the tiles and the asphalting of the street are already two-thirds finished. Another week and it will be completely restored and open to vehicular traffic.

As for Baywalk, Lim said the shacks of restaurants lining it and hiding the famous Manila Bay sunset will be removed. He said he suspects many of them have no building permits anyway. And that they are built on the sidewalks which are beyond the commerce of man.

Those restaurants are like squatters, he said. They can have tables and chairs there but the shacks will have to go, the mayor said. And definitely no liquor, including beer, allowed.

Lim added that he is allowing the restaurant owners to dismantle their own shacks. "If they don't, City Hall will do it and charge them for it," he said.

"Those who get hungry can cross the street and eat at the numerous eateries there," Lim added.

Reign of error

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ANTONIO CALIPJO GO HAD ONE HELL OF an ad in this newspaper the other day. Go, if you don't know it yet, is the guy who has been indefatigably (his enemies say relentlessly) pointing out the mistakes and inaccuracies that teem in what pass for elementary and high school textbooks in this country. A crusade that has gotten him not a load of praises from grateful countrymen but a load of bull—and libel suits—from irate textbook suppliers.

Not entirely surprisingly. Gus Lagman, too, exposed the Comelec scam that would have awarded its computerization to a company that was not fit to bid, and that company, Mega Pacific, has had the gall to file a libel suit against him. In this country, no good deed is left unpunished.

I did know about, and applauded, Go's crusade. But until he published that ad, I didn't realize the mind-boggling extent of the wrong he was trying to right, or the mistakes he was trying to correct. To say that these are errors is to say that George W. Bush is somewhat dimwitted. I was laughing my head off at some of the outrageous things he listed down, until I too began to wonder what kind of minds they would end up molding in the schools. Young minds are the most impressionable of all, fallow ground for vice and virtue, enlightenment and benightedness.

This one from English Book IV is absolutely precious: "Many Filipino men and women have brains." That should go with an exclamation point. Other classic displays of waywardness:

"You should always address the envelope." "Kiosk: A structure open at one or more sides and used as a bandstand." "He seemed to be waiting for someone, not a blood relation, much less a bad blood." "It is very dangerous to face a bull that has been played with." "Here's for you!" the guard said while hitting Basilio. (I guess that's a transliteration of "*Eto'ng sa yo!*") "People are not made to float like a bird." "Galileo invented a magnifying telescope." "He became the primetaker of his family's land." "The lakes widdled down." "The hen walked coquetly." "It makes him squirmish." "The potato pursued a disapproving lip."

Those Eraptions are almost forgivable. What are not are these: From English Book I: Jose Garcia Villa wrote "The Woman Who Had Two Navels." You don't know who did, you shouldn't have passed high school. Or this one, from English Book VI: "Fort Santiago was the fortress used by Rajah Soliman as his protection against the Spaniards." Never mind that Filipinos grow up speaking English like Barok, mind only that Filipinos grow up thinking like, well, Borat is Go's own example.

Go himself says these are an infinitesimal part of the errors, mistakes, inaccuracies, lacunae and inanities that riot in our textbooks. I can believe him, if these examples are anything to go by. Go's own pet peeve is the inclusion of "titi," defined as the male organ, and "titatita," defined as pimp in a Grade V "Hiyas sa Pagbasa" textbook. Though I myself have a high tolerance for these things, I am at pains to see how those words could possibly represent pearls of reading, not to speak of wisdom.

Is the theory to improve reading skills by supplying pupils with words that are closest to their cultural environment? Indeed, is the theory to give pupils an understanding that language is not static and that new words are constantly entering the vocabulary? If so, then I can suggest better words than "titi" or "titatita" to give pupils a better grasp of their milieu, while improving their reading capabilities. Examples: "'Boto' (not the Visayan or Bicol variety!): English: vote: The cheapest commodity in the Philippines." "'Filipino/Filipina: The number one export of the Philippines." "'Peke: English: fake: Filipino nurses, the Filipino president, the 12th Filipino senator in the new Senate."

Or maybe you can retain "titi" and "titatita" and give them new meanings. Thus: "Titi": English: Prick: See also congressman." "Titatita": Eng. Pimp: See also number one promoter of overseas work." And so on.

Less facetiously, Go truly deserves praise for the zeal with which he is advancing his cause, which almost unbelievably seems almost a lonely one. It's not hard to see why his pleas for the recall and/or correction of the textbooks have fallen on deaf ears at the Department of Education. The late Raul Roco told me when he was still education secretary that during his early months in office the DECS parking lot was filled with Mercedes-Benzes. They were owned by people who either had contracts or were seeking contracts with the department for printing and/or supplying textbooks.

Textbooks are big money. Filipino authors may be impoverished, which include the authors of the textbooks themselves, but the people who sell textbooks to the education department are not. Cheaper for their suppliers to get public officials to forget the three R's than to hire people who cost more than three G's to correct them. Or since some of them are near-uncorrectable, to go by Go's revelations, write new ones in their place.

Go has every reason to give up on the DepEd and plead his case instead before the public. His cause is better served stoking the wrath of the parents of the kids than pricking the conscience of the king, or queen, to whom the DepEd officials report. Malacañang won't be bothered by benighted textbooks either: It wants only a population that can obtain enough learnings to work abroad and benefit the glorious nation of Gloria. Or a population that is sufficiently kept in the dark the better to be divided and conquered. Ignorance is bliss—for tyrants.

Not for the tyrannized. As abundantly taught in show-and-tell lessons about fakeness, reigns of error all too easily turn into reigns of terror.

A tale of two countries

COMMENTARY

Felicito C. Payumo

A RECENT TRIP TO BANGKOK FOUND ME wondering how far behind we are now in building our physical infrastructure. Bangkok's new airport, large and functional, is one of the best in the region. The sight of it made me dread the thought of returning home through the old and dilapidated Ninoy Aquino International Airport as well as the traffic-snarled Tramo Street.

Thailand and the Philippines used to be described as twin countries up to the 1960s, when they had roughly the same population and economic size. Curious to check how we now compare, I looked up the World Fact Book on the Internet. In 2006, our GDP per capita was $5,000, while it was $9,200 for the Thais. People living below the poverty line made up 40 percent of our population, while it was only 10 percent in Thailand.

Do we blame this on our large population? The World Fact Book says we now number 91 million, while there are 65 million Thais. This would explain the difference in our per capita shares if we had the same GDP, but Thailand's stood at $585.9 billion while ours was $443.1 billion. Thai exports also amounted to $123.5 billion, three times more than our $47.2 billion.

This is the main reason why the unemployment rate in Thailand was 2.1 percent, while ours was 7.9 percent. The Thais don't have to look beyond their shores to find gainful employment while 8 million of our compatriots endure separation from their families to work abroad.

What accounts for Thailand's higher production? Production comes from a country's installed manufacturing capacity, and its agriculture and services sector, so Thailand's higher GDP would not have come about if it had not done a better job of attracting investments. In fact its investment rate, at 28.7 percent of GDP, is nearly twice our 14.6 percent.

We are thankful for small blessings, such as the reported 6.9 percent GDP growth during the first half of this year. While some people tend to be skeptical about this figure, given how tax collections have fallen below target, our efforts in attracting call centers and business process outsourcing have obviously produced results. And given good infrastructure, we can attract big investments, such as the $1.6-billion shipbuilding facility of Hanjin in Subic, and the $1-billion expansion plant of Texas Instruments (TI) in Clark. Subic is fast becoming a maritime center with the new shipyard and container port, grains and fertilizer bulk facilities, and dry dock for ship repair. Philippine Airlines plans to expand its operations to the Diosdado Macapagal Airport in Clark. I am sure this piece of news, along with the anticipated completion of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway by yearend helped Texas Instruments choose Clark over China despite the more liberal terms the latter offered.

But we have a long way to go before we can ever catch up with our old twin. Thailand has built 57,403 km of paved roads while we have 19,804 km. Thailand's superiority in terms of railways is even more dramatic. Their trains run on 4,071 km of rails while we make do with 897 km of narrow gauge tracks, of which only 40 percent is operational. If we have more airports (83 with paved and 173 with unpaved runways compared to Thailand's 63 and 42, respectively) is due to geography. We either fly or ride a boat to island destinations.

But geography is also the reason the Thais have a more extensive irrigation system. They have irrigated close to 50,000 sq km of land while we have only 15,500 sq km. Of course, Thailand is served by the mighty Mekong River, but we could have built small water impounding systems which are better suited to our archipelagic geography.

But where did Thailand get the resources needed to build all these infrastructures which in turn attracted investments? One likely source is tourism. Bangkok is the doorstep of travelers from Europe to Asia. And Thailand has a lot to offer than just its location.

In 2006, Thailand received about 15 million visitors who spent some $14 billion. The Philippines could not even bring in 3 million tourists to earn $2.5 billion. On the other hand, our OFWs remitted an estimated $14 billion last year, whereas Thailand does not even keep a record of remittances from its workers abroad. Thus, our combined earnings from visitors and OFW remittances of $16.5 billion is bigger than Thailand's comparable figure of $14 billion.

So why are we lagging behind? Because we have long failed to harness this remittance resource. A Bangko Sentral survey showed that after providing for educational and medical expenses, and buying or improving their houses, only 40 percent of our OFWs save and most of their savings are kept in banks abroad. Only 10 percent invest, while they dissipate their earnings by spending on home appliances, gadgets and fast foods.

The challenge before us then is how to mobilize this huge and continuing resource for economic development. And this can be done by providing OFWs investment alternatives other than buying tricycles for their relatives.

In this regard, the decision of ING and PNB to create a $500-million mutual fund for OFWs is welcome. But how about creating Special Purpose Investment Vehicles for infrastructure, microfinance or agribusiness for countryside development? For example, extending the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway to Kennon Road would be viable under a BOT scheme. There already exists mainstream traffic in the north-south artery unlike in the missionary east-west Subic-Clark segment. There are other viable infrastructure projects awaiting funding but which local capital plus the $14-billion annual remittance from overseas can fund. We can also put up Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) for infrastructures or business ventures that will provide livelihood in rural communities.

Our compatriots overseas sincerely want to help. They just have to be shown how. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could provide them good investment opportunities even as they do their share in nation building?

Felicito C. Payumo is a former congressman and chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

A doctor in trouble

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PHILIPPINE MEDIA ARE CHOCK-FULL OF STOries about overseas workers who run afoul of the law in countries where they work. Some are about to be executed, while others languish in jail. Local media have a field day ferreting out the families of these beleaguered workers and one family member or two is sure to denounce the lack of "support" by the government, either to provide legal assistance or to pay for the repatriation of the worker or the shipment home of the remains.

But what of Filipinos who become naturalized citizens of their adopted countries? When they come in conflict with the law in their new homelands, to whom can they turn for help, assistance and comfort?

Dr. Noel Chua, a Filipino-American internist, has been in jail for almost a year now on a charge of murder, but a trial has yet to commence. Edmund Silvestre of The Filipino Reporter, a New York-based newspaper for the Fil-Am community, says "the Filipino-American community in Georgia as well as the mainstream community there are outraged" at Chua's plight. Many in the community are comparing the Chua case with that of the three Duke University lacrosse players who were prosecuted for alleged rape but subsequently cleared after more than a year, after the district attorney was found to have been "over-zealous" in his pursuit of the case.

In a report published in the Reporter, Silvestre said "outraged community members are urging the US Attorney General's Office, as well as the attorney general in Georgia, to look into what they claim was a grave injustice against a jailed Filipino-American physician."

Silvestre reported that Chua, 47, a medical graduate of the Far Eastern University, was charged with two counts of felony murder and 17 counts of violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act in the Dec. 15, 2005 death of James Carter III, a 20-year-old Caucasian college student who was found dead on the bathroom floor of Chua's home in St. Mary's, Georgia.

* * *

CHUA was indicted on Sept. 13 last year and has been held in prison since then. His assets were also frozen.

Silvestre reports that Carter had been Chua's patient who became his employee. When police responded to a phone call from Chua who discovered Carter's body, they allegedly found "medication, a hypodermic syringe and a white-powder substance" in Carter's room. Police later said Chua prescribed the drugs that had killed Carter.

But it has been 10 months since Chua's indictment, and 19 months after Carter's death, and the case has yet to go to trial. Silvestre reports that Stephen Kelley, the district attorney, is trying to get Chua to accept a two-year plea bargain, an offer Chua has repeatedly rejected, insisting on his innocence.

What's puzzling to Chua's friends and supporters is that almost a year after preparing what it called an "iron-clad" case against the doctor, Kelley is now trying to get the state attorney to take over the case, though he insists he has committed no injustice against Chua and everything was followed "by the book."

* * *

IN AN e-mail Chua wrote to Reporter columnist Dr. Philip Chua (no relation), the doctor explained why he refused to take the plea. It would require him to give up his medical license and DEA registration number. He said he'd rather rot in jail than admit to a crime he has not committed.

"It is time for the truth to come out," Chua said. "The last e-mail I received from my lawyer shows how weak (is) the case they have against me. For charging me with two murders and 17 drug violations, they are now willing to just give me probation..." The doctor also noted that even if he is exonerated, his life has been taken away and his reputation ruined.

Chua also told other journalists that he was treating Carter for his long history of severe migraines. What he wasn't told was that Carter had also been seeing a drug rehab doctor even before his initial visit with Chua. Chua pointed out that "the toxicology report shows that Carter had multiple drugs in his system, even drugs that (Chua) never prescribed to him." The doctor also said he warned Carter never to mix his prescriptions with any other drugs.

* * *

CHUA topped the Philippine medical technology board exam in 1987 and ranked 11th in the medical board exam after his graduation from FEU. Silvestre also reports that Chua was a high school valedictorian and graduated magna cum laude from college. He also worked for six months as a missionary doctor in Palawan. He received the highest honors upon completing his master's degree in health care policy and management at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Several community members in Georgia have reportedly written their congressmen and senators, urging them to investigate the alleged injustice committed against the Fil-Am doctor.

Silvestre says he has talked with Chua's elderly parents who are "heartbroken" by what has befallen their son. Chua, says Silvestre, "wants to assure them that he's in high spirits and will win this battle to restore his and his family's reputation. He said he loves his parents more than they'll ever know and he will do his best to clear his name."

Chua, adds Silvestre, knows he cannot count on the Philippine Embassy for any form of support or assistance since he is now a naturalized US citizen. But surely, the embassy could at least show some interest in his case and inquire about the progress in the investigation while he is being held in a Georgia jail.

Silvestre says the Reporter is following up the case. Let's hope he keeps local readers abreast of subsequent developments, too.

Corrections on 'history'

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHILE EVERYONE WAS TRYING TO CASH IN on whatever good/bad luck was available for the taking at 7:07 a.m. last July 7, 2007, the family of the late Ferdinand Marcos was preparing for the inauguration of the Marcos Presidential Library in the National Library and the launch of seven books on the former president intended to balance the generally negative image he has gotten these past two decades.

If there was any leader who had a clear sense of history and his place in history, it was Marcos. Thus, I am curious to see what primary sources are available in this new library that can give us a new perspective on the man and his legacy. Being a "martial law baby," I knew no other president but Marcos, and as I tell my students these days, I actually thought Marcos came with the tacky, gold-painted furniture in Malacañang. In recent years, I have been thinking of the ways in which he influenced not only the course of history during his time but also the way we look at history and understand it.

On Jan. 24, 1973, four months after he declared martial law and began to rule by decree, Marcos issued Presidential Decree 105 declaring established national shrines as sacred or hallowed places and protected these and those that would be declared as shrines in the future from acts of desecration. Thus, it was forbidden to disturb the peace of these shrines by noise, excavation, or "unbecoming acts" (whatever that meant). Furthermore, Marcos set fines and prison terms for those who desecrated these shrines. Specific mention was made of the Rizal Shrines in Calamba, Fort Santiago and Dapitan; the Mabini shrines in Tanauan and Pandacan; the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, and "Batan, Aklan, where the Code of Kalantiyaw was promulgated in 1433; etc." The last shrine mentioned was a source of pride in 1956 when the Philippine Historical Committee, at the request of the municipal council of Batan installed a bronze marker in the area with a text that read:

"CODE OF KALANTIAW. DATU BENDAHARA KALANTIAW, THIRD CHIEF OF PANAY, BORN IN AKLAN, ESTABLISHED HIS GOVERNMENT IN THE PENINSULA OF BATANG, 'AKLAN SAKUP.' CONSIDERED THE FIRST FILIPINO LAWGIVER, HE PROMULGATED ABOUT 1433 A PENAL CODE NOW KNOWN AS CODE OF KALANTIAW CONTAINING 18 ARTICLES. DON MARCELINO ORILLA OF ZARAGOZA, SPAIN, OBTAINED THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT FROM AN OLD CHIEF OF PANAY WHICH WAS LATER TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH BY RAFAEL MURVIEDO YZAMANEY."

Kalantiaw was such a source of national pride that a Kalantiaw Shrine and Museum was established in Batan, numerous streets were named after this legendary—or, should we say mythical—figure, and a state decoration, the Order of Kalantiaw, was established and conferred on retiring Supreme Court justices. Then in 1968, William Henry Scott proved that the Code of Kalantiaw was a forgery made in the early 20th century.

As a historiographical issue it was not a problem, but the effect of the truth on the pride of Aklan, particularly of the municipality of Batan could be expected. It took over three decades for Kalantiaw to be officially declared a forgery. When the National Historical Institute (NHI) Board did it in 2002, there was a move to close the Kalantiaw Shrine, or at least to re tool the museum into a Museum of Aklan History. This was not taken lightly by locals. And here we see how history crosses over from the academic to the political.

Recently, the Senate moved to include the Muslim South into the mainstream of Philippine history by declaring the Sheik Karimul Makhdum Mosque a national shrine. There are four ancient wooden pillars in the mosque that are traditionally believed to have been part of the original built in 1380 A.D. Such would not be a problem if the carbon-dating of the pillars supported the above date. Maybe the carbon-dating is wrong, but again, this is not a question of history but the intersection of history, politics, local and national pride.

In 2003, the NHI authorized the transfer of a historical marker for the site of the first shot of the Philippine-American War from San Juan Bridge to a little-known street corner on Silencio and Sociego Streets in Sta. Mesa, Manila. The city government of San Juan resisted the change, which was welcomed by the capital city of Manila. Not only was historical "fact" changed, but it was unfortunate that San Juan lost its part in national history, as well as the excuse to have a special public holiday every Feb. 4. Because of vigorous opposition to the move, the NHI staff had to remove the marker from the San Juan Bridge at dawn and transfer it to the new, corrected, site.

For this act, I was told, there was a move to declare the NHI chair persona non grata in San Juan and charge him with theft. Fortunately, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito was not swayed to act on the latter because the marker was installed by the Philippines Historical Committee, the precursor of the NHI, so how could the NHI steal what was technically its property?

If you are misled into believing historians lead boring lives, think again; sometimes historians live quite dangerously.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

'Sipsip, sulsul'

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I'VE BEEN ASKED TO PREPARE A PAPER FOR A CONFERence on management and culture, with a particular focus: What are the main challenges that face leaders in the Philippines when it comes to organizational dynamics? When I was first asked that question, two words flashed immediately in my head: *"sipsip"* and *"sulsul."*

Sipsip and *sulsul* (imagine them as terrorist twins or a two-headed monster) make no distinctions, feasting on small, medium and large offices; government and private organizations; businesses, political parties and religious groups. They're also a plague in many families and clans, turning even the closest siblings into the worst of enemies.

The *sipsip* and *sulsul* certainly aren't specific to the Philippines. You find them everywhere, but in the Philippines, they seem to thrive particularly well because of a particular configuration of social and historical circumstances.

Let me first describe the two creatures and their feeding habits, and then talk about the environment that allows them to do so well.

'Sipsip'

Sipsip is actually the younger of the twins, and the more visible and audacious. Literally translated as "to suck," *sipsip* means sycophancy, an excessive and insincere flattering. An American slang term, "brownnose," is particularly graphic in the way it describes how the sycophants stick to you, the brown nose the result of the way they follow you, from behind, to demonstrate their loyalty.

Much of *sipsip* is verbal, often conducted by several people who form a hallelujah chorus of sorts. In the Philippine setting, *sipsip* is also often acted out, the *sipsips* trying to outdo each other to do things for the big boss.

Psychologists know that the exuberance one feels after getting praise is always fleeting, which is why leaders can develop an addiction to their *sipsip* brigade, constantly in need for additional and larger doses of adulation.

Sipsips can be dangerous because they form a cordon sanitaire, shielding their master from any kind of bad news. The *sipsip* is there to assure the leader that he (or she) can do no wrong. Often employed to do public relations as well, the *sipsip* takes care of assuring the public—whether constituents of a politician or clients of a corporation—that all is well under the helm of the Great Leader. Eventually, a leader surrounded by sycophants loses touch with reality, which is why the family, the corporation or even an entire nation, begins to fall apart.

There are two kinds of *sipsips*. One is the underdog *sipsip* who is fairly low in the pecking order and simply needs to survive by licking the boots of whoever is higher up. He is usually the back-up voice in the hallelujah chorus and doesn't do too much harm, except to his own self-esteem.

The more dangerous *sipsips* are the ambitious ones, trying to worm their way into the power structures. They're usually not too competent in what they do, and therefore have to find other ways to get promotions. By currying favor with the gods and goddesses, they often end up not as wielders of power themselves but as influence-peddlers. The organization then begins to fall apart because a premium is placed on who you know within, rather than on job performance.

'Sulsul'

Sipsip's twin is *sulsul*, a difficult term to translate. The closest English translation is "to goad" but *sulsul* also has connotations of constant, incessant intrigue. Like *sipsip*, *sulsul* goes for the ego but beyond that ego, it feeds also on a leader or administrator's insecurities. *Sulsul* is an older twin of *sipsip*, tending to be more cunning in a vicious way.

A *sulsulero* is usually already unpopular in the organizational structure, so to survive, he or she has to find ways to shield the boss (or, in families, a patriarch or matriarch) from those enemies. And what better way to do this than to identify the boss' insecurities, and to paint a picture of the office under siege from particular enemies—the *sulsulero's* adversaries of course?

Like the *sipsip*, the *sulsulero* works on the boss day in and day out so that even a fairly smart administrator might eventually wonder if perhaps there's some truth to what the *sulsulero* is saying. Who was it who said that if lies are repeated often enough, people will believe them?

The character Golum in "Lord of the Rings" comes to mind when one tries to picture a *sulsulero*, a pathetic, sneaky weakling of a character. To some extent, yes, many *sulsuleros* are that way, but the more dangerous ones are those who come through with a benevolent demeanor. First, the *sulsulero* convinces the administrator that there are serious problems caused by certain people, and then he presents himself as the one and only reliable person to solve those problems, or to protect the leader from the enemies. In the end, the leader relies on a small cabal of *sulsulero* advisers, not knowing that they are the biggest scoundrels of them all.

The irony is that often, the *sulsulero* works on the staff as well, using gossip to create more intrigues and discontent sometimes against the very leader for whom they proclaim their loyalty. Like the *sipsip*, the *sulsulero* ingratiates himself with both the leader and co-workers as an intermediary who will bring the solution to all their problems.

Twins' father

As I mentioned earlier, *sipsip* and *sulsul* are not unique to the Philippines, but they do become greater problems in our setting because the two trace their paternity back to our feudal structures. Our social structures—from the family to the most modern corporations—are rigid hierarchies that are mainly based on age, class. It is not easy to access superiors, and to be frank in bringing up problems so such hierarchies create spaces for *sipsip* and *sulsul*.

How do we break that cycle? Leaders themselves, and that includes heads of clans, should be more discerning, learning to detect the empty praise of the *sipsip* and the vicious intrigues of the *sulsulero*. Because our feudal structures are so built on age and seniority, an older administrator should be especially aware of his vulnerability to becoming surrounded by the *sipsip* and *sulsulero*, and eventually becoming isolated from the world.

Even more importantly, we need to move away from the transactional politics that characterizes our feudal politics. Transactional politics is based on an exchange of favors, which encourages the *sipsip* and the *sulsulero*. We need to move toward a meritocracy that rewards competence and performance rather than praise and intrigue. When that happens, people will be motivated to be good at their work, rather than spending time on *sipsip* and *sulsul*.

Sure, there will always be Golum-type sycophants and sowers of intrigue lurking around, but they will be hard pressed to find a sympathetic ear, from fellow workers, or from the boss when everyone's too busy working.

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Give our children more 'green' spaces

THE EFFORTS OF THE INQUIRER to draw attention to and promote the preservation of wildlife and critical habitats in the country are truly commendable.

On Earth Day, the government took the opportunity to announce that it has pledged to set aside a section of wetland in Las Piñas and Parañaque for a nature sanctuary.

The site bordering the Coastal Road tollway plaza is an area that the people of Metro Manila should be proud of and care for. Its lagoon, adjacent mud flats and scrub provide a haven for the threatened Philippine Duck, a beautiful waterfowl found nowhere else in the world, as well as thousands of migratory shorebirds from the Asian mainland.

Preserving a section of the Metro Manila coastline where residents and visitors can enjoy, learn about and delight in natural green spaces and wildlife should become a public priority. Taiwan's Guandu Nature Park, the mixed-use development Mai Po and Hong Kong Wetlands Park, Singapore's green corridors and the Bang Po Nature Education Center in Thailand are examples of how similar efforts can help improve urban design, increase aesthetic value and promote the livability of the metropolis.

Now that the elections are over, I look forward to seeing this promise become a reality. It's time we set about reversing the trend of urban decay and environmental degradation in our lifetime.

More parks for people. More green spaces for children.

—MICHAEL C. LU,
president, Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, www.birdwatch.ph

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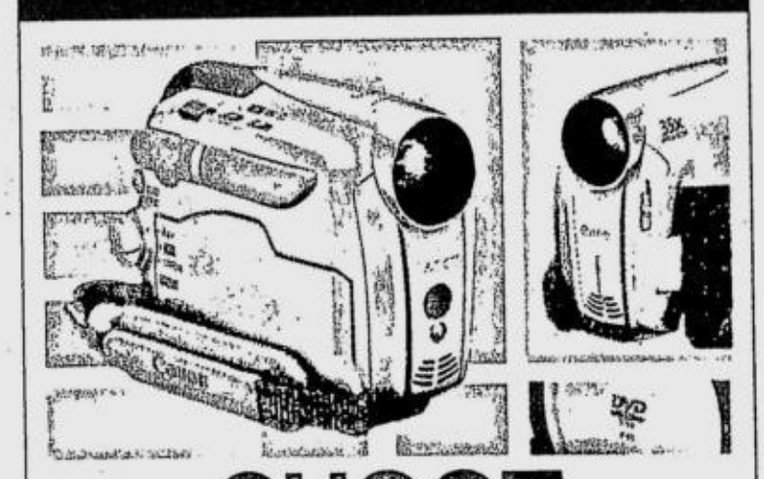

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Armed Forces not a total failure

WE SHOULD NOT MISCONSTRUE the failures of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the past as an indicator that the institution is a complete failure. Our one and only Armed Forces is mandated to defend and protect us.

In our common desire to do away with the communist insurgency, we have called on the military to exhaust all means to defeat it. However, when they commit mistakes, many of us are quick to condemn them; but when they do good, they receive no praise; when they die fighting the insurgents, nobody seems to mind. They have been fighting the insurgents for many years, but they have never complained. They are still fighting the insurgents and risking their lives till this very moment.

It is, therefore, so disheartening that the unexplained killings of activists are immediately attributed to the military. This is unfair.

The AFP's image has long been tainted by so many controversies. And some of its erring members have forgotten that they were once part of the organization; they have become vindictive toward their own organization—the organization they had pledged to serve unselfishly. Thank heavens there are only a very few of them.

The AFP chief of staff should continue to do his job as expected of him. Critics may hurl invectives not only at his person but also at the whole AFP. But he should not allow himself or how he does his job to be affected. He has proven himself worthy of the job; that's why he was chosen and given the responsibility to lead the AFP.

—MARINITO B. LAYUG,
Congressional Village,
Quezon City 1106

Meralco's upward rate adjustment, pro-consumer?

THIS REFERS TO THE LETTER of Elpi Cuna titled "Rate adjustment pro-consumer too." (INQUIRER, 6/25/07)

As the president of a homeowners' federation which was a co-petitioner in a case filed before the Supreme Court in 2004, questioning the legality of the generation rate adjustment mechanism (GRAM) as an automatic recovery scheme, allow me to comment on the matter.

This adjustment stems from the fact that Meralco, like the National Power Corp., has its contracts with IPPs (independent power producers) that provide for these adjustments, thus making consumers within the franchise area of Meralco absorb two GRAMs—Napocor's and Meralco's.

After reading Cuna's letter, I wondered how a rate adjustment could be pro-consumer especially when it is increasing. Cuna did not bother to explain how.

I believe the only way a rate adjustment could be pro-consumer is if the consumers' payments for these undelivered/unconsumed electricity are credited as their equity in the book of accounts of the IPPs (after all, most IPPs built their facilities under a build, operate and transfer contract); and if the adjustment results in a rate reduction which will always be welcome.

I hope Cuna and the rest of the Meralco management, for once, see themselves as ordinary consumers.

—DR. BONIFACIO C. DAZO,
president,
Federation of Las Piñas Villages Association,
Myrna Panlilio Street,
BF Resort Village,
Talon 2, Las Piñas City

In Sunday best for (one's) boss rather than for God

"*. . . adore the Lord in holy attire.*" (Psalm 29:2, The New American Bible)

"*. . . worship the Lord in sacred garments.*" (Christian Community Bible)

NOW, IF RINA JIMENEZ-DAVID does believe or has some doubts that the Bible is the "word of the Lord," then she should read no further and just disregard this letter.

If, however, she is open to other people's opinions, then she should consider this, with the white-collar workers in mind: They dress up nicely for work—many in compliance with company rules, some to show they are employed in offices; but all because they want to be seen as presentable, etc., to their managers and upper management. Come Sundays they go to Holy Mass in ordinary house attire, some of which look like they have been slept in? The question for the Catholic is: Who is more important—God or their boss? Who are they more afraid of?

Protestants, especially the "born again" who were formerly practicing Catholics, dress a lot better when they go to Sunday services. Why? They read the Bible—something very seldom done by Catholics. Hence, they have a better appreciation of God.

I am 66 years old. In my youth, I had the usual cavalier attitude toward God and religion. But even as a boy, going to Mass in one's Sunday best was etched in my memory. And if one were dirt poor and one's best was a tattered "sando," still he had to wear it, simply because it was his best.

The Vatican has promulgated a dress code for all, repeat all, visitors to the Sistine Chapel and the adjoining cathedral—no short pants, no flimsy clothes, no bare shoulders, etc. Many visitors got upset and complained. Some of their comments sounded like David's.

After reading David's column ("A Sunday dress code," INQUIRER, 7/3/07), I thought to myself, let those who are complaining visit a mosque in that attire and let's see what happens. I bet my life, not one of them will complain or protest, except to mutter that the shawl they've been given to wrap themselves looked in dire need of washing. Why the double standard? You tell me.

—ROCKY B. DENOGA
colonel PAF (Ret),
rocden41@yahoo.com

Santiago's 'precedent' missed out essential point

THIS IS IN REACTION TO SEN. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's statement comparing the case of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV to that of former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos. (INQUIRER, 6/22/07) Coming from someone with impeccable legal credentials, Santiago's "precedent" would have been plausible except that she missed out on some very important details.

Jalosjos' case involves a criminal offense for which he had already been convicted and was serving time when he won another term as congressman. On the other hand, that of Trillanes involves a political offense which is still in the pre-trial stage. Thus, Trillanes still enjoys the legal presumption of innocence, while Jalosjos was already a convicted felon when he petitioned the Supreme Court for bail. No wonder, the Supreme Court denied Jalosjos' petition precisely because his election into office could erase his conviction of a criminal offense.

Santiago should not forget that even though Jalosjos had already been convicted of a heinous crime by a regional trial court, he still continued to enjoy the privilege of being addressed "honorable." His equally "honorable" colleagues in the House refused to heed calls to drop Jalosjos' name from the official roll of House members. It was only when the Supreme Court upheld his conviction with finality that his name was dropped from the House roll.

—VIRGILIO P. RAYO,
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Zapote, Las Piñas

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Perennial flooding in T. Sora

THIS IS AN APPEAL to the Flood Control Division of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Flooding is a perennial problem in Barangay Tandang Sora, Quezon City and this affects so much the subdivisions adjacent to Durio Creek. It seems that the problem's main cause is the overflowing of water from the creek.

Perhaps, the creek is too shallow and narrow, and there is need to do some dredging, widening and rip-rapping to accommodate the volume of water during the rainy season.

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Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Former rice growers see promise in trees

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

UNTIL 1990, CLUSTERS OF rice terraces in an indigenous village in Baguio City would turn lush green shortly after the planting season and golden yellow when the plants were heavy with ready-to-be-harvested grains.

"We have been self-sufficient in healthy traditional upland rice until 1990," says Angela Diano, 55, a mother of four and grandmother of six in Barangay Happy Hallow in the city's outskirts. "Now we miss our red-brown and violet rice."

At 7 years old, Diano started helping her parents tend their two-hectare rice fields, mastering every chore that accompanied each cycle of rice cultivation from sowing and soil preparation to harvesting.

GOOD Roots project director Dr. Ben Wallace inspects the fruit tree nursery in Barangay Happy Hallow in Baguio City. ERIK ARAZAS

But a magnitude 7.7 earthquake in July 1990 shook the water tables of nearby springs, which used to irrigate the rice fields in Happy Hallow. This altered the village's farming landscape.

The earthquake and large-scale mining activities in the village's borders with Itogon town in Benguet dried up most of the water sources for the rice fields and for the villagers' homes, says village chair Joseph Sacley.

Although not widely promoted, the village of about 1,000 Ibaloi and Kankanaey families could have been Baguio's nearest substitute to the more renowned rice terraces in Ifugao, which is a more than 10-hour drive from the city. Happy Hallow is 10 km away or a 20-minute drive from Baguio's Session Road.

"Until 1990, we were still brewing our own rice wine," says Diano. "But with no more upland rice to brew, people here can now easily buy beer and other commercial brews."

Many farmers have since shifted to planting vegetables such as cauliflower, broccoli, beans, bell pepper and cut flowers like mums.

Introducing trees

Compared to the other 127 villages in Baguio, Happy Hallow remains green with mostly pine trees, which was apparently one reason no one ever thought of investing in planting trees.

But when an oil company introduced its agro-forestry and livelihood program, "we immediately accepted it," says Sacley.

The idea of investing in trees to help protect the environment and generating related livelihoods was broached by Prof. Ben Wallace, the director and pioneer of Caltex Philippines' (now Chevron Philippines) Good Roots project.

Wallace, together with a lean and committed staff, began the project in 1991 in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte.

Part of Chevron Philippines' social responsibility program, the Good Roots project is community-based and community-run to ensure that residents will have "full ownership and control" over it, says Wallace, who, together with his five staff members, maintains an office in Happy Hallow.

"Through the project's nursery, we are now in the final stage of planting trees in all vacant areas," says Sacley. "We want to ensure that no space in our barangay (village) is denuded."

Only more than 2 years old, the Good Roots project in Happy Hallow already holds business promise.

"From the leaves of trees mixed with chicken dung from our community poultry house, we can produce organic fertilizer for sale," says Sacley.

"Since we also plant hardwood species, we can ensure that our children in the future can have lumber to use in building their houses," he says.

The promise of income also rests in various fruit trees such as citrus, jackfruit, coffee, durian, rambutan and others, which village folk have learned to propagate not only through seeds, but also through budding, grafting and marcoting techniques.

Health

Not only the potential income from fruit trees but the health they bring in terms of air quality and added supply of vitamins and minerals motivated Elizabeth Dacsig, a newly retired teacher, to join the Good Roots project.

"Even if I'm already old, I was eager to join the project because, aside from the excitement of learning and succeeding in the techniques of grafting and budding, I know I can help give better health and nutrition to my family and community," she says.

"Of course, any surplus from our fruit tree production means added income for us," she adds.

Dacsig says Happy Hallow's pine stands and other trees may soon disappear as its population grows.

"So we need to replace whatever trees that would be felled and what better way to do this than to sow and produce seedlings in our community nursery," says Dacsig.

Drawing inspiration

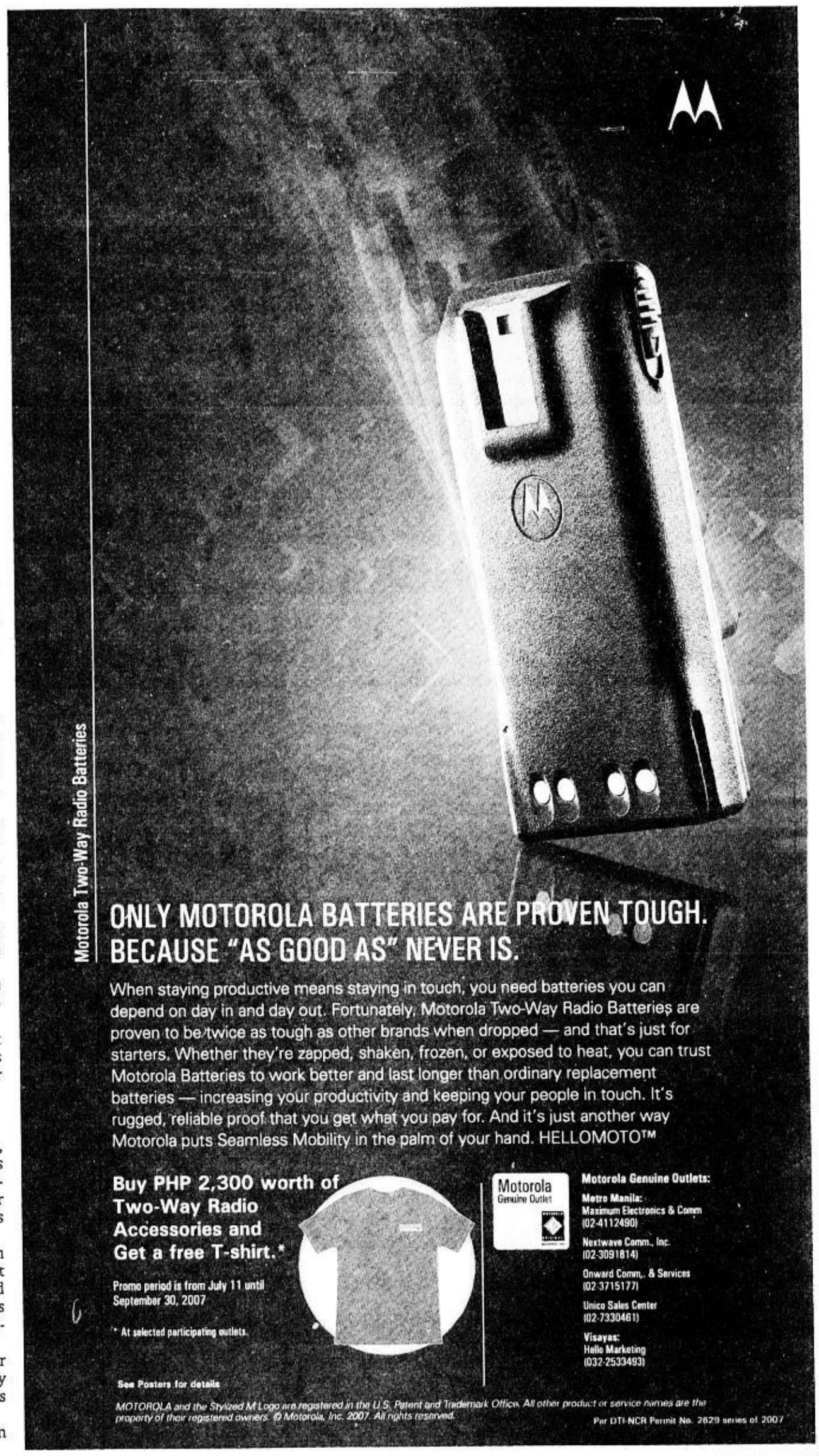
To further inspire Happy Hallow villagers, Wallace invited Good Roots beneficiaries from other towns to share their "success stories" during the launching on July 6 of a wider regreening movement involving Baguio's neighboring towns in Benguet.

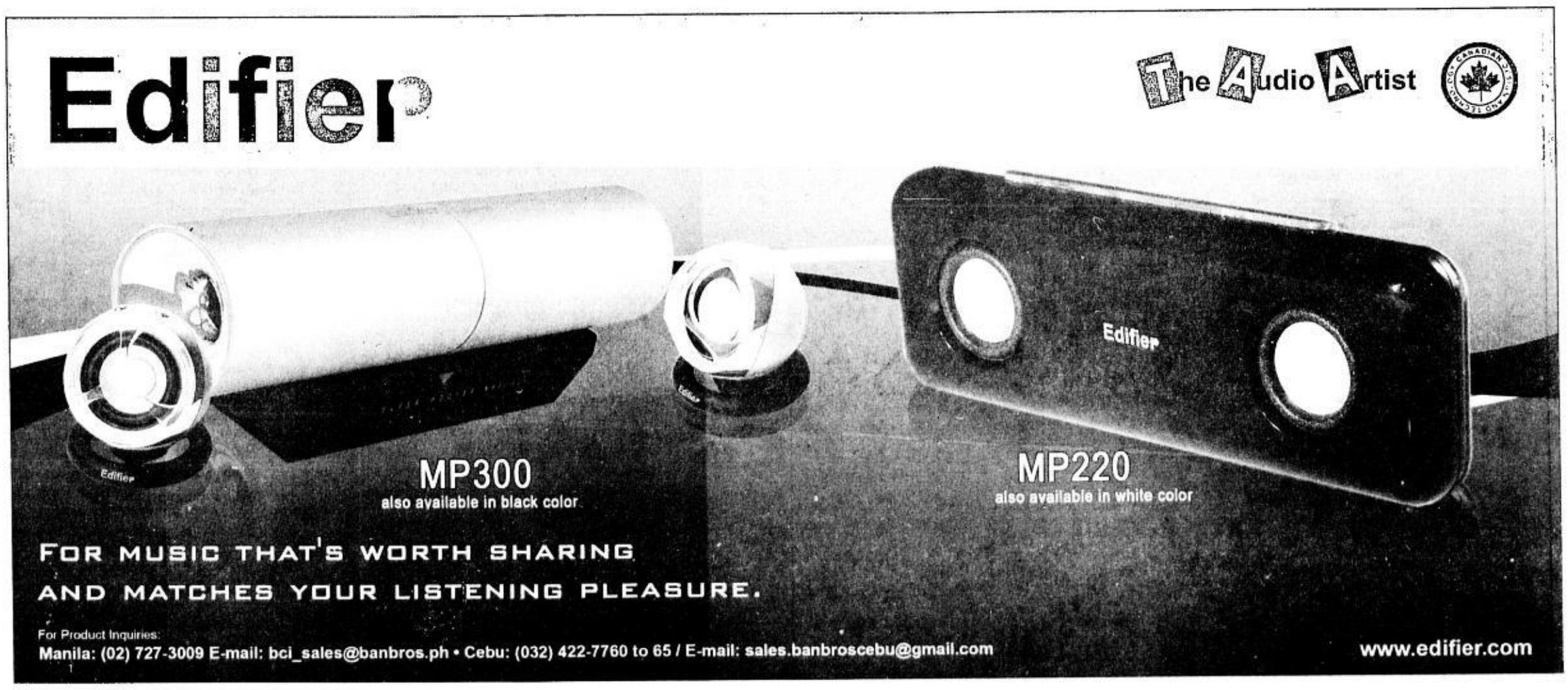
"As old as I am I was able to plant more than 200 trees—from rambutan and other fruit trees and mahogany—in my backyard, and now my efforts are bearing fruits," says William Balabog, a farmer in his 70s from Pugo, La Union.

Balabog says he expects to harvest this year from his rambutan and other fruit trees only after three years of joining the Good Roots project.

Also expecting returns on investments in the form of fruits from trees and lumber from hardwood species, Roger Pulido, a farmer from Barangay Taloy Norte in Tuba, Benguet, tells proponents of Good Roots: "You helped us prepare the future of our children."

For Happy Hallow villagers, who lost their age-old rice varieties, their hope, according to Sacley, now lies in the promise of trees that residents, including grade school children, have learned to plant and nurture.





Multi-party congressmen support President Arroyo, Speaker de Venecia

Majority Coalition submits 12-point economic action plan

Now that the political campaign is *won*, our *real* work begins. For electoral victory means nothing unless it is put to the service of country and people.

In the Thirteenth Congress, we accomplished a great deal. Through the *expanded* VAT and new revenue measures, we've placed State finances on a sound footing. In 2006, the public sector posted its first Budget surplus since the financial crisis of 1997. This has enabled our country to regain a measure of investor confidence.

By conducting relatively peaceful mid-term elections, we've also begun to restore political stability.

But there's much more we need to do. We must generate a new wave of reforms that will invigorate our economy and restructure our politics.

OUR TASKS IN THESE NEXT THREE YEARS

Toward this end, we've drawn up a Legislative Program for 2007-2010 that we believe responds to our most urgent needs. And we're determined to work in union to carry out this Program. We invite all our colleagues in the 14th Congress to join us.

Our Legislative Program for these next three years has 12 thematic goals. These are:

1. *Sustain the economic and political gains* the Administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has achieved for the nation.
2. *Speed up market opening* to catch Asia's new wave of growth.
3. *Install the political, electoral and administrative reforms* that will make the Philippines a "Strong Republic" and lead her to Second World, and eventually, First World status.
4. *Raise our country's competitiveness* by lowering the costs of doing business and improving workers' *productivity.*
5. *Equip our youth to compete in the global Knoivledge Society* by modernizing basic education and emphasizing Math, English and Science.

"We must generate a new wave of reforms that will invigorate our economy and restructure our politics.

Toward this end, we've drawn up a Legislative Program for 2007-2010 that we believe responds to our most urgent needs.

And we're determined to work in union to carry out this Program."

6. *Focus on our core strengths* in industry and the service sector by striving to become a hub of global business-process outsourcing, information technology and logistics.
7. *Emphasize tourism as a growth industry,* in which our varied natural attractions and our gracious people give us a comparative advantage.
8. *Develop alternative fuels and energy sources* to avoid the coming crunch in the global oil supply.
9. *Bridge the gap* between our urban and rural economies by modernizing agriculture and raising rural incomes.
10. *Give everyone a stake* in our country's development by sharing the benefits of growth.
11. *Reconcile* the needs of development with our duty, as custodians of the Earth, to care for our environment.
12. *Ensure regional peace* by building, with our ASEAN partners, one Southeast Asian economic and political *community* and an East Asian Economic Grouping.

POLITICS MUST TRANSCEND PARTISAN INTERESTS

If we are to achieve these large goals, our politics must transcend partisan interests. Our politics must begin to reflect our highest collective aspirations for the national community.

We are pleased to join Rep. Jose de Venecia, Jr. of the Fourth District of Pangasinan as co-authors of this Declaration and ask him to offer himself for the Speakership—because we believe he is the best-equipped, by his track record and strong political will, by his understanding of the parliamentary process, his broad legislative experience, his standing in the Asian and international community, and his conciliatory spirit to steer these make-or-break Legislative Programs through the Fourteenth Congress.

Finally, a new term for Speaker de Venecia will enable him to carry out in the next few months his program for electronic voting and the computerization of all the House's law-making and ancillary programs.

To Speaker de Venecia, we pledge our wholehearted and militant support.

Done in the months of June and July, 2007, Metro Manila.

177 sign Manifesto; 124 needed to win speakership

Rep. Eric Singson (2nd Dist., Ilocos Sur)
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Rep. Junie Cua (Lone Dist., Quirino)
Rep. Zenaida Angping (3rd Dist., Manila)
Rep. Arnulfo Fuentebella (3rd Dist., Camarines Sur)
Rep. Victoria R. Sy-Alvarado (1st Dist., Bulacan)
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Rep. Albert Garcia (2nd Dist., Bataan)
Rep. Franklin P. Bautista (2nd Dist., Davao Del Sur)
Rep. Eduardo Zialcita (1st Dist., Parañaque)

Rep. Justin Chipeco (2nd Dist., Laguna)
Rep. Juan Edgardo Angara (Lone Dist., Aurora)
Rep. Prospero Nograles (1st Dist., Davao City)
Rep. Judy Syjuco (2nd Dist., Iloilo)
Rep. Paul Daza (1st Dist., Northern Samar)
Rep. Rodolfo Valencia (1st Dist., Oriental Mindoro)
Rep. Mitos H. Magsaysay (1st Dist., Zambales)
Rep. Eileen Ermita-Buhain (1st Dist., Batangas)
Rep. Bienvenido M. Abante (6th Dist., Manila)
Rep. Monico Puentevella (Lone Dist., Bacolod City)
Rep. Roque Ablan (1st Dist., Ilocos Norte)
Rep. Reylina Nicolas (4th Dist., Bulacan)

Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo (2nd Dist., Lanao del Norte)
Rep. Joseph Santiago (Lone Dist., Catanduanes)
Rep. Edgar Chatto (1st Dist., Bohol)
Rep. Felix Alfelor, Jr. (4th Dist., Camarines Sur)
Rep. Rodolfo Plaza (Lone Dist., Agusan Del Sur)
Rep. Roman Romulo (Lone Dist., Pasig);
Rep. Carmencita Reyes (Lone Dist., Marinduque)
Rep. Emil Ong (2nd Dist., Northern Samar)
Rep. Reynaldo Uy (1st Dist., Samar)
Rep. Solomon Chungalao (Lone Dist., Ifugao)
Rep. Jeci A. Lapus (3rd Dist., Tarlac)
Rep. Jose Aquino (1st Dist., Butuan City)

Rep. Arrel Olaño (1st Dist., Davao del Norte)
Rep. Conrad Estrella (6th Dist., Pangasinan)
Rep. Pedro Romualdo (Lone Dist., Camiguin)
Rep. Carmelo Lazatin (1st Dist., Pampanga)
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Rep. Antonio Kho (2nd Dist., Masbate)
Rep. Bernardo Piñol, Jr. (2nd Dist., North Cotabato)
Rep. Victor Dominguez (Lone Dist., Mt. Province)
Rep. Raul Gonzales, Jr. (Lone Dist., Iloilo)
Rep. Arthur Defensor (3rd Dist., Iloilo)
Rep. Nanette C. Daza (4th Dist., Quezon City)
Rep. Victor Ortega (1st Dist., La Union)

Rep. Marc Douglas Cagas (1st Dist., Davao del Sur)
Rep. Erwin Chiongbian (Lone Dist., Saranganl);
Rep. Edwin Uy (2nd Dist., Isabela)
Rep. Munir Arbison (2nd Dist., Sulu)
Rep. Pedro Pancho (2nd Dist., Bulacan)
Rep. Del De Guzman (2nd Dist., Marikina City)
Rep. Henry Dueñas, Jr. (2nd Dist., Taguig-Pateros)
Rep. Czarina Umali (3rd Dist., Nueva Ecija)
Rep. Marcelino Teodoro (1st Dist., Marikina City)
Rep. Edcel Lagman (1st Dist., Albay)
Rep. Thelma Almario (2nd Dist., Davao Oriental)
Rep. Ferjenel G. Biron (4th Dist., Iloilo)

The beginnings of national unity: **Representatives from Lakas CMD, Kampi, Nationalist People's Coalition, Liberal Party, Nacionalista Party, LDP, PDSP, PDP-Laban, Party-list organizations and Independents have joined forces**

MULTI-PARTY UNITY. Over a hundred members of the multi-party coalition in the House of Representatives take their oath of office before President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang last week in a show of solidarity behind the President, Speaker Jose de Venecia and the government's socio-economic and political reform programs. The lawmakers, both new and re-elected members, were led by Speaker de Venecia, Deputy Speakers Raul del Mar and Eric Singson, and Majority Leaders Prospero Nograles and Arthur Defensor.

Rep. Simeon Datumanong (Lone Dist., Maguindanao)
Rep. Raul del Mar (1st Dist., Cebu City)
Rep. Vincent Crisologo (1st Dist., Quezon City)
Rep. Mary Mitzi Cajayon (3rd Dist., Caloocan)
Rep. Mat Defensor (3rd Dist., Quezon City)
Rep. Pangalian Balindog (2nd Dist., Lanao del Sur)
Rep. Ma. Carissa O. Coscoluela (Party List, BUHAY)**
Rep. Yusoph Jikiri (1st Dist., Sulu);
Rep. Roberto V. Puno (1st Dist., Antipolo)
Rep. Magtangol Gunigundo (2nd Dist., Valenzuela)
Rep. Vincent J. Garcia (2nd Dist., Davao City)
Rep. Herminia Roman (1st Dist., Bataan)
Rep. Thomas Dumpit, Jr. (2nd Dist., La Union)
Rep. Manuel Agyao (Lone Dist., Kalinga)
Rep. Orlando Fua (Lone Dist., Siquijor)
Rep. Rachel Arenas (3rd Dist., Pangasinan)
Rep. Herminia Ramiro (2nd Dist., Misamis Occidental)
Rep. Jose F. Zubiri (3rd Dist., Bukidnon)
Rep. Bong Bravo (1st Dist., Masbate)
Rep. Beima Cabilao (1st Dist., Zamboanga Sibugay)
Rep. Mark Enverga (1st Dist., Quezon)
Rep. Francisco T. Matugas (1st Dist., Surigao del Norte)
Rep. Antonio F. Lagdameo, Jr. (2nd Dist., Davao del Norte)
Rep. Juan Carlos Nava (Lone Dist., Guimaras)

Rep. Monica P. Teodoro (2nd Dist., Tarlac)
Rep. Theresa B. Bonoan-David (4th Dist., Manila)
Rep. Edgar Valdez (Party List, APEC)
Rep. Sharee Ann Tan (2nd Dist., Samar)
Rep. Mauricio Domogan (Lone Dist., Baguio)
Rep. Jose Carlos Lacson (3rd Dist., Negros Occidental)
Rep. Roger Mercado (Lone Dist., Southern Leyte)
Rep. Samuel Dangwa (Lone Dist., Benguet)
Rep. Andres Salvacion, Jr. (3rd Dist., Leyte)
Rep. Isidro T. Ungab (3rd Dist., Davao City)
Rep. Rizalina Seachon-Lanete (3rd Dist., Masbate)
Rep. Ernesto Pablo (Party List, APEC)
Rep. Leonila Chavez (Party List, BUTIL)
Rep. Manuel Zamora (1st Dist., Compostela Valley)
Rep. Faysah Dumarpa (1st Dist., Lanao del Norte)
Rep. Carmen Cari (5th Dist., Leyte)
Rep. Danny Lagbas (1st Dist., Misamis Oriental)
Rep. Yevgeny Vicente Emano (2nd Dist., Misamis Oriental)
Rep. Guillermo Cua (Party List, COOP-NATCCO)
Rep. Ernesto Bulut (Lone Dist., Apayao)
Rep. Alfredo Marañon III (2nd Dist., Negros Occidental)
Rep. Jose Antonio Roxas (1st Dist., Pasay)
Rep. Dan Fernandez (1st Dist., Laguna)
Rep. Ben Pancrudo, Jr. (1st Dist., Bukidnon)

Rep. Cecilia Luna (Lone Dist., Abra)
Rep. George Arnaiz (2nd Dist., Oriental Negros)
Rep. Joseph Violago (2nd Dist., Nueva Ecija)
Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (Party List, ALAGAD)
Rep. Glenda Ecleo (1st Dist., Surigao del Norte)
Rep. Jeffrey Ferrer (4th Dist., Negros Occidental)
Rep. Nur Jaafar (Lone Dist., Tawi-Tawi)
Rep. Eufrocino Codilla (4th Dist., Leyte)
Rep. Janette Garin (1st Dist., Iloilo)
Rep. Lorna Silverio (3rd Dist., Bulacan)
Rep. Irwin Tieng (Party List, BUHAY)**
Rep. Rex Gatchalian (1st Dist., Valenzuela)
Rep. Mark Llandro Mendoza (4th Dist., Batangas)
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Rep. Marina Clarete (1st Dist., Misamis Occidental)
Rep. Lito Gatlabayan (2nd Dist., Antipolo City)
Rep. Rosendo Labadlabad (2nd Dist., Zamboanga Norte)
Rep. Nelson Dayanghirang (1st Dist., Davao Oriental)
Rep. Eleandro Madrona (Lone Dist., Romblon)
Rep. Emmylou Talino-Santos (1st Dist., North Cotabato)

Rep. Roberto Cajes (2nd Dist., Bohol)
Rep. Datu Pax Mangudadatu (1st Dist., Sultan Kudarat)
Rep. Arnulfo Go (2nd Dist., Sultan Kudarat)
Rep. Carlo Oliver Diasnes (Lone Dist., Batanes)
Rep. Guillermo Romarate (2nd Dist., Surigao del Norte)
Rep. Antonio Alvarez (1st Dist., Palawan)
Rep. Julio Ledesma IV (1st Dist., Negros Occidental)
Rep. Eduardo R. Gullas (1st Dist., Cebu)
Rep. Rolando Uy (1st Dist., Cagayan de Oro)
Rep. Florencio Vargas (2nd Dist., Cagayan)
Rep. Rodito Albano (1st Dist., Isabela)
Rep. Rommel Amatong (2nd Dist., Compostela Valley)
Rep. Florencio Miraflores (Lone Dist., Aklan)
Rep. Pryde Henry Teves (3rd Dist., Negros Oriental)
Rep. Cesar Jalosjos (3rd Dist., Zamboanga del Norte)
Rep. Alvin Sandoval (Lone Dist., Navotas-Malabon)
Rep. Edelmiro Amante (2nd Dist., Agusan del Norte)
Rep. Anna York Bondoc (4th Dist., Pampanga)
Rep. Jocelyn Limkaichong (1st Dist., Negros Oriental)
Rep. Jaime Lopez (2nd Dist., Manila)
Rep. Rodolfo Antonino (4th Dist., Nueva Ecija)
Rep. Reno Lim (3rd Dist., Albay)
Rep. Nicanor Briones (Party List, AGAP)
Rep. Robert Estrella (Party List, ABONO)

Rep. Adelina Zalderriaga (2nd Dist., Rizal)
Rep. Erico Fabian (1st Dist., Zamboanga City)
Rep. Victor Aguedo Agbayani (2nd Dist., Pangasinan)
Rep. Arthur Pingoy, Jr. (2nd Dist., South Cotabato)
Rep. Teodoro Locsin, Jr. (1st Dist., Makati City)
Rep. Neptali Gonzales, Jr. (Lone Dist., Mandaluyon City)
Rep. Ronald Singson (1st Dist, Ilocos Sur)
Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon (Lone Dist., Muntinlupa)
Rep. Salvacion Ponce-Enrile (1st Dist., Cagayan)
Rep. Jose Villa Yap (2nd Dist., Tarlac)
Rep. Wahab Akbar (Lone Dist., Basilan)
Rep. Glenn Chong (Lone Dist., Biliran)
Rep. Mariano Piamonte, Jr. (Party List, A-Teacher)
Rep. Adam Relson Jala (3rd Dist., Bohol)
Rep. Oscar Malapitan (1st Dist., Caloocan)
Rep. Fredenil Castro (2nd Dist., Capiz)
Rep. Manuel Mamba (3rd Dist., Cagayan)
Rep. Cecilia Jalosjos-Carreon (1st Dist., Zamboanga del Norte)
Rep. Genaro Alvarez, Jr. (6th Dist., Negros Occidental)
Rep. Jesus Crispin Remulla (3rd Dist., Cavite)

** Plus 14 more commitments from party-list congressmen not yet proclaimed and other Members who are abroad.*

*** The case of Buhay party-list congressmen is still awaiting final resolution by the Comelec.*

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₱3-B Subic oil smuggling uncovered

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-SMUGGLING Group (PASG) has started flexing its muscles to stop oil smuggling at the Subic Bay Freeport.

Undersecretary Antonio Villar Jr., PASG head, said a case for economic sabotage, violations of customs and tariff code, and falsification of documents has been readied against a company that has failed to liquidate at least 138 million liters of oil, worth P3 billion, from out of the Subic freeport in the last six months.

Villar said the case against the firm Tri-Solid will be filed any time this week.

"We are just awaiting some documents," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

"The fact that it cannot liquidate (or make a proper accounting of its stock) means that it sold its supply outside [the freeport]," Villar said.

Like three other oil importing companies based in the Subic freeport, Tri-Solid's supply should only be sold to and consumed by companies doing business there, he said.

Rampant smuggling

An official of the Tri-Solid did not answer INQUIRER's calls and text messages on Tuesday.

The legal action against Tri-Solid came after Villar's meeting with Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, Subic-Clark Alliance Development Council Chair Edgardo Pamintuan and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Administrator Armand Arreza on Monday night.

Villar described the smuggling of oil in Subic as rampant, saying an average 60 truckloads of oil was being smuggled almost daily.

To stop this irregularity, Villar ordered the establishment of checkpoints at all gates of the freeport and the deployment there of PASG personnel and policemen from the Central Luzon police office starting Tuesday.

Arreza is coordinating those efforts at the SBMA level, he said.

INQUIRER sources said a top SBMA official has lifted the suspension order on Tri-Solid. An official of the Bureau of Customs at Subic has not also been removed despite the oil smuggling.

No sacred cows

Villar said the instruction of President Macapagal-Arroyo was to "leave no sacred cows" in the renewed anti-smuggling campaign.

Smuggling, he said, should be stopped because it destroys the economy.

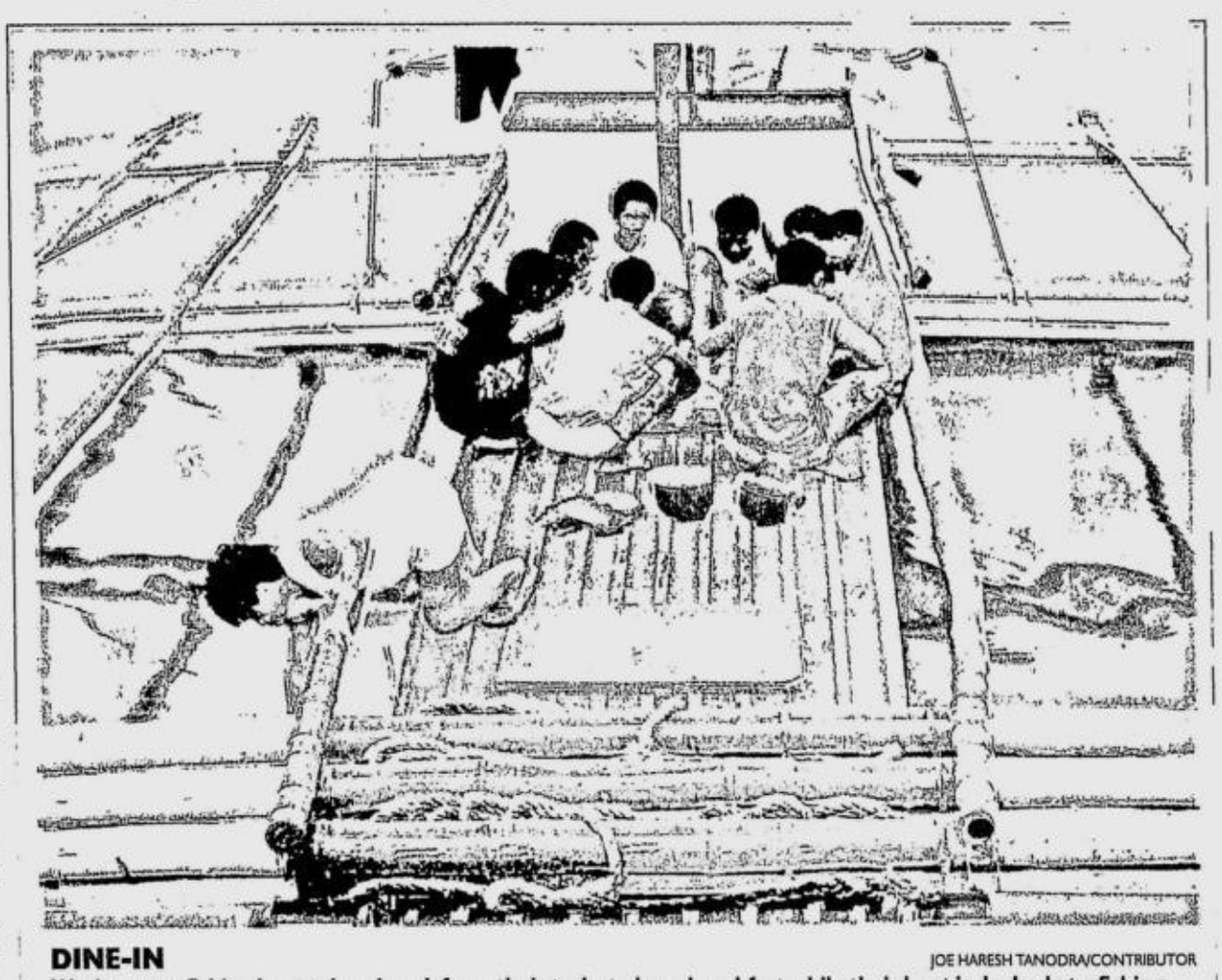
"It is one of the reasons for the shortfall in government revenues," he said.

Villar said the PASG has also confirmed the smuggling of vehicles in Subic, Cebu and other parts of the country on the complaints of car manufacturers Toyota and Ford.

In Cebu, the anti-smuggling effort was being met with quiet protests by importers and customs brokers.

The importers and customs brokers allegedly made the protest after the PASG withheld the release of some cargo suspected to be smuggled. PASG reportedly issued alert orders on legitimate shipments, which embarrassed the owners.

However, BOC-Cebu collection division chief Conrado Abarintos said he could not confirm nor deny the reports. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*



DINE-IN JOE HARESH TANODRA/CONTRIBUTOR

Workers at a fishing boat take a break from their tasks to have breakfast while their boat is docked at a fishing area in Tagbilaran City.

Landslide in Diwalwal buries 5 people

DAVAO CITY—AT LEAST FIVE PEOple, including a pregnant woman, were killed while three others were injured in a landslide in the gold-rich Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley on Monday evening.

Franco Tito, Mt. Diwata village chair, yesterday said an avalanche of loose soil and boulders covered at least four houses in Purok 2 in Sitio Summit around 7:30 p.m.

The victims, he said, were having dinner inside the house of an Indaman Jimlanie when the landslide took place following a heavy downpour.

Despite Mt. Diwata's reputation as a landslide area, Tito said the Sitio Summit landslide was unexpected because the area had not been identified as landslide prone.

Tito said three of the dead had been found but the remains of the two other victims were still in the rubble.

The three were identified as Ralph Sodia and Rosemarie Mamaril, who was three months pregnant, and Marlito Burdeos.

The bodies of Roderick Cabaluna and Tata Rosales have not been found.

Efforts to retrieve the remains were tough because of the amount of soil and boulders that are on top of where they were believed buried was "enormous," said Tito.

"The amount of debris we should move away is equivalent to the haul of least 20 dump trucks," he said.

The Office of Civil Defense said it has raised an alarm for landslides in the area because of the rains.

"People living in Diwalwal must really be cautious and take extra care because their houses are built in the slopes and we know the dangers that come with this," Minda Morante, director of the OCD in Southern Mindanao.

In November 2005, at least 32 miners were killed in a cave-in in Diwalwal.

In 1999, at least 14 miners were also killed in a landslide that was also triggered by heavy rains.

In October last year, at least 13 miners were trapped inside a tunnel following a cave-in. The miners were found alive more than a week after.

Diwalwal, which became notorious for bloodshed over gold mining, had been identified as a landslide-prone area by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

An MGB report on the geohazards assessment of the area said some areas in Diwalwal were unstable because of "poor ground conditions and unrestrained and unsystematic human intervention, mainly logging and mining."

The report also classified certain areas in Diwalwal as having low, moderate or high degrees of susceptibility to landslides.

The same MGB report also recommended the relocation of people living in the landslide prone areas to the mountain's southwest portion. *Jeffrey Tupas and Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*

Survivor key to puzzle of Batangas 'salvagings'

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

CAMP VICENTE LIM—POLICE ARE hoping to unravel the mystery of at least five gangland-style executions in Batangas from a survivor who is recuperating in the hospital with bullet wounds in the head and chest.

Winston Adrelin Torribio was still breathing when policemen arrived to check on a report that bodies were found in Barangay Balele in Tanauan City, Senior Supt. Prudencio Bañas, Batangas police director, said. He was brought to a hospital somewhere in Batangas.

"The victim is now in stable condition. He is slowly recovering. We're certain that he could give light to what really happened to them and identify who wanted them killed," Supt. Francisco Rodriguez, Tanauan police chief, said in a mobile phone interview.

A body found near Torribio remains unidentified, Rodriguez said.

Four bodies—all bearing tattoos and piercings—were dumped separately in Tanauan and Talisay on Monday and identified as those of four young men from Calamba City, police said yesterday.

All had bullet wounds in the head, Bañas said. They were all discovered by villagers at dawn on Monday.

Bañas said the cadaver found on a vacant lot in Barangay Talaga in Tanauan was that of Joseph Castro, 18, of Barangay Sampiruhan, Calamba.

The other bodies discovered along a narrow road in Barangay Aya in Talisay were identified by friends and relatives as those of Deo Celada, 18, and Edison Barrientos, 22, both of Barangay Sampiruhan; and Jayvee Alvarez, 21, of Barangay Bañadero, Calamba.

Police have yet to determine the motive in the killings.

While the killings of the Calamba residents could have been the handiwork of the same group of suspects, there were no indications that these were related to the slay attempt on Torribio and the killing of the other victim, Bañas said.

"We suspect that the dumping of the bodies of the victims from Calamba and those of the two other victims were just a coincidence," he said.

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Ermita to AFP: Produce six intelligence agents

From page A1

peace and order summit on the Human Security Act, otherwise known as the antiterrorism law. *(See story on Page A1).*

Ermita said the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) should present the agents identified by the informant of the Department of Justice.

Concerned with the publicity the investigation had generated, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said he had told Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco to shut up until he had gathered enough evidence against the agents.

It was Velasco who announced the other day that he had ordered the questioning of the agents, including a woman.

"I ordered him to stop talking because once you talk about these things this will be blown up in the media," Gonzalez said.

He said it remained to be proved that the individuals were really military personnel.

Ermita said the commanders of the agents identified by Velasco should present them for investigation so they could respond to charges that they were behind the abduction of Burgos on April 28.

"That's the only way we can get to the bottom of this," Ermita said.

Velasco's order to the National Bureau of Investigation to question six military personnel eased some of the anxieties of the Burgos family, which has been searching for nearly three months for the 36-year-old son of the late press freedom advocate Jose (Joe) Burgos Jr.

Jonas' mother, Edita Burgos, said she had been praying "very hard" for something to happen in her search for her son, who was forcibly taken by three men and a woman from a Quezon City mall.

"I am very happy. It answered my prayers," she said in a phone interview, referring to the DOJ directive to the NBI.

Edita said she went to church to pray and give thanks.

Ermita reiterated the government and the military did not condone the abduction and killing of militants.

"Now, if there are people who did it on their own, for their own reasons, then let them face the music," he said.

Velasco ordered to shut up

National Security Adviser and acting Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales said the names of the agents identified by Velasco were fictitious. He said he got this information from Isafp chief Maj. Gen. Delfin Bangit.

Velasco identified five of the agents as M/Sgt. Aron Arroyo and Cpl. Maria Joana Francisco of the Air Force, who purportedly also are members of Military Intelligence Group 15 of the Isafp; T/Sgt. Jason Roxas of the Army; 1st Lt. Jaime Mendaro of the Army, who is also assigned to the 56th Infantry Battalion, and Lt. Col. Noel Clement of the Army and assigned to the Escort and Security Battalion.

'Not ours'

The sixth was identified only as a certain T.L. or "team leader," supposedly also with MIG 15 of the Isafp.

The Isafp has said that none of the supposed Isafp men mentioned were on its roster.

Yesterday, the Army said one of the three Army personnel mentioned, T/Sgt. Jason Roxas, was not on its roster, either.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said the Army had no officer named Jaime Mendaro but it had one by the name of Jaime Mendaros Jr., also a first lieutenant, and he was in Singapore for military training.

Mendaros, formerly posted to the 56th IB in Bulacan, has been in Singapore since early this month.

The Burgos abduction is the most prominent of recent attacks on leftist militants in the country. Since Ms Arroyo took office in 2001, more than 800 activists have been killed allegedly by security forces, according to the human rights group Karapatan.

Edita said that of the names released by Velasco, two were names she had also come across.

Similar names

She said that "through friends" she was given some names of people who might have had something to do with Jonas' abduction.

But Edita said she had not yet done any verification of the names given her.

She said she had not released the names because it would have been unfair to have done so without verification.

Bangit insisted his command had nothing to do with Jonas' disappearance as he expressed frustration with the reports linking Isafp agents to the case.

Bangit vowed to clear his command's name by intensifying its own investigation. He reiterated that a check of the names of the Isafp agents mentioned showed they "do not exist as per our official record is concerned."

"Now, the only way to check is for the witness to really come out and tell us why this is so," Bangit said in a phone interview.

More denials from Bangit

He reiterated that Isafp had done an internal investigation and that none of its units was found to have been involved.

He said he "could still look (Ms Burgos) in the eye (and say) Isafp had nothing to do with the disappearance of Jonas."

Asked if he had looked into the possible involvement of other military units, Bangit merely disclosed what he said he told the Commission on Human Rights.

He said CHR officials had asked whether he was discounting any military involvement.

"My answer is there are two theories that are very possible. One theory is a group outside the Armed Forces [may have done it] and maybe the (other) theory is that it's possible within the Armed Forces."

"In due time, we will make our report to the proper authorities ... but as of now, what is very evident is ... that Isafp is not in any way connected with this disappearance." *With a report from Tina Santos*

Prosecutor claims getting death threat from 'Emperor'

By Leila B. Salaverria

A DAY AFTER ORDERING THE INVESTIGATION of six military personnel over the disappearance of peasant leader Jonas Burgos, Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco yesterday received a death threat through a text message, warning him that he was up against someone called "Emperor."

Velasco claimed it was "common knowledge" that "Emperor" was the code name of Maj. Gen. Delfin Bangit of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"I'm not accusing Bangit here," Velasco said. "I'm not saying that it was Bangit's personnel who sent this. This might have been made to mislead."

Bangit could not be immediately reached for comment.

Velasco said the text message could have been sent to disrupt the investigation into the Burgos disappearance.

0915-9973844

The text message was sent to Velasco around 1:30 p.m. and came from the number 0915-9973844.

"Hayop ka Velasco. Hindi mo kaya si emperor, ihahabol ka namin kay Jonas. Bilang na oras mo, magtago ka na (Damn you, Velasco. You cannot take on emperor, you'll suffer the same fate as Jonas. Your hours are numbered, you better hide)," the message read.

Velasco said he had informed the police and the National Bureau of Investigation about the text.

NBI: Show biz celebs invested in Francswiss

From page A1

ties, basketball players, police and military officers, office employees, medical representatives and retirees.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday named some prominent personalities who were allegedly among the investors in Francswiss, one of the pyramiding scams proliferating on the Internet.

They included TV newsreader Korina Sanchez, actress Claudine Barretto-Santiago and husband Raymart, former PBA player Bonel Balingit, former Isabela Gov. Benjamin Dy and his brother, Victor.

In a statement, Sanchez denied investing in Francswiss.

"It was irresponsible for the National Bureau of Investigation to make the reckless allegation and destroy my reputation as a broadcast journalist, which I carefully built and protected through the years," she said.

"In my profession, credibility is of paramount importance. My name is being used by scam artists to attract more investors. I am currently out of the country, but I am ready to face my accusers and answer all allegations when I return to Manila," she said.

Manny Fayre, of the NBI National Capital Region, said the bureau had yet to verify if these personalities were indeed involved in the scam. "There is also the possibility that their names were used to entice prospective investors into joining the investment scheme," he said.

Name-dropping

Ara was first approached by a recruiter and agent to invest in Francswiss in May.

She did not pay attention to the invitation despite the "dropping" of Korina Sanchez's name as one of those who invested in the scheme that promises a daily 4.5-percent interest for an initial investment of $1,000.

Ara knows Sanchez but did not bother to call her because she said she had no interest at all.

The second time Ara heard about Francswiss, or FS Investment, was after she arrived from shows in the United States in June.

This time, another "non-show biz" person approached her sister Christine Reyes, also an actress, and "dropped the name" of a popular drama actress and one of the main talents of a big network.

Ara said actor Jay Manalo once called her on her cellular phone and tried to convince her to invest in an online scheme that would double and even triple her initial investment.

"We did not get to see each other to discuss the investment," she said.

The third time Ara heard about Francswiss was from an actor belonging to a popular show biz clan. The actor, a comedian and host, texted her, "Super *galing, kumita ang* $1,000 *ko* makes $45 a day!"

Instinct

But still Ara refused to be lured into putting money in the scheme, saying that she relied on her instincts. "If I have a premonition, I don't enter into any transaction," she said.

The fourth time Ara heard about Francswiss was from another colleague she described as a "matinee idol-type."

This time, though, she was not being asked to invest. Instead, she was asked if she had indeed invested in Francswiss.

"'No! I don't go into that.' That's what I told the actor. But what's painful about it was that a fellow artist mentioned my name [as an investor]," Ara said.

The number of times Ara was approached about Francswiss made it seem as if the entertainment industry had caught a bug.

The actor-comedian, who sent an SMS message to Ara, would validate this in a separate interview. He invested money and so did other actors and actresses he knew in the industry.

"Name it, journalists, respected and with very high reputations, politicians even are said to be investors," he said on the condition that his name not be printed to protect his family.

Coded names

But he said there was no list because, according to him, code names could be used.

He said the Francswiss website was still active days before it was exposed in the media and was only shut down in the "week" that one of the suspected financial advisers of the scheme was arrested.

"A lot of people were really making money from their daily interest even without recruiting, pyramiding or what you may call the Ponzi scheme," the actor said.

He noted that the only time investors stopped making money was "when the website was closed."

The site this actor-comedian was referring to was the website http://www.francswiss.biz and an alternate website, http://deutch-francs.com. By the time the NBI exposed them to media, the two sites were no longer operational.

When he first visited the website and saw the names of actors and journalists he knew, he called them to ask if they indeed placed money online and he got a "resounding and very excited 'yes' for an answer."

The motivation for him to put more money in Francswiss was the fact that he made money.

Too good to be true

His fianceé warned him about it, saying "the abnormally high promise of return on investment seemed too good to be true." He went on anyway, and "tripled his initial investment in just several days."

"In a sense, I did not lose, but neither did I earn because I rolled the money before the site closed down. What was painful was that the people I invited in and joined did not get their money back," he said.

After the NBI arrested Eleazard "Ele" Castillo, allegedly the chief financial adviser of Francswiss, a lot of people in the entertainment industry "got scared," the actor-comedian said.

At the NBI, Fayre said Castillo reportedly admitted that he recruited the Dys and the Santiagos.

Fayre said Castillo, along with other "financial advisers" of Francswiss, used to hold meetings at the house of the Santiagos.

Sanchez was allegedly recruited by a certain Jay Heredia, a "downline" of Castillo. She reportedly invested P15 million.

The NBI said that the prominent personalities, particularly Sanchez, were being used by those behind the scam to pacify irate victims.

Text message on Korina

The NBI was referring to the text message reportedly circulating among Francswiss investors. The message reads: "FS advisory: To all investors, remain calm. The server will resume anytime. Korina will fix bad publicity as soon as she gets back from the States. We are not violating any law, we are not pyramiding scam because even if we are not recruiting we can get our interests. Francswiss is doing its part for the people."

Fayre said that the NBI might invite the prominent personalities to shed light on the pyramiding scheme.

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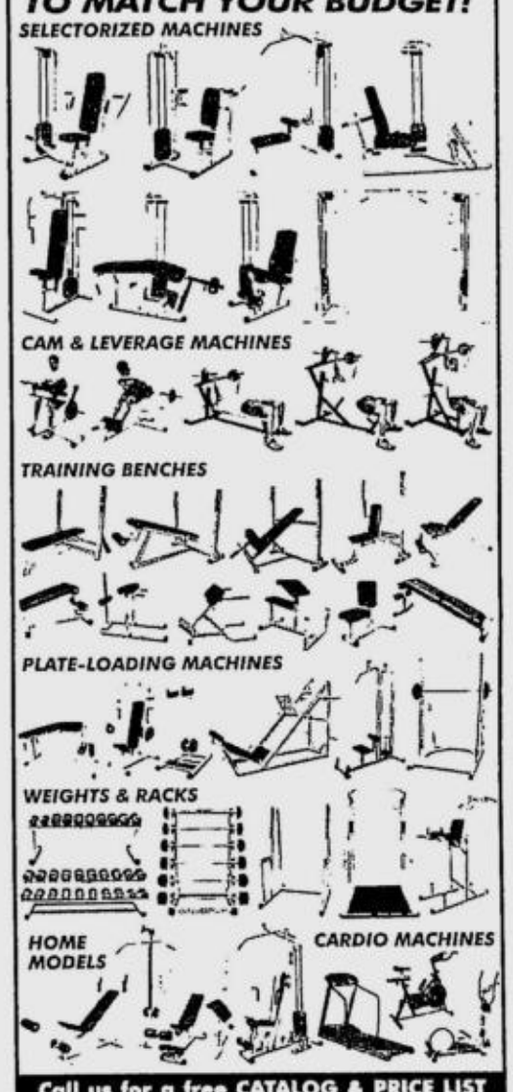

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DID YOU KNOW

PASIG River, which stretches 25 kilometers from Laguna de Bay to Manila Bay, has been the scene of many historic events, like the replacement of the native rajahs by Spanish conquistadors in the 16th century, an attack by a Chinese pirate in 1574, and the British Invasion of 1762. The river was also used as a transport route by Katipuneros led by Andres Bonifacio on their way to attend secret meetings.

But the river, treated as a waste basin by communities lining its banks, has deteriorated through the years. The Pasig River started to emit a bad smell in the 1960s. In 1985, all types of fishing came to an end. According to a 2006 report by the United Nations Human Development Program, Pasig River is one of the world's most polluted rivers. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

ANTI-RED DRIVE

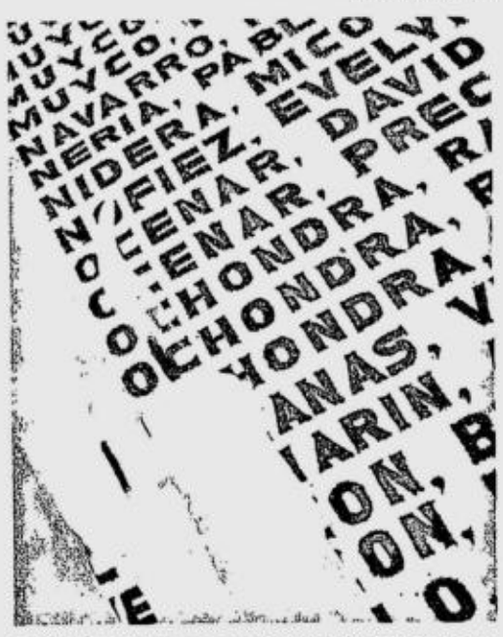
Soldiers return to QC, Taguig

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE SOLDIERS ARE BACK IN Metro Manila, with the military leadership ordering their redeployment to nine barangays in Quezon City and Taguig City yesterday.

Next week, more soldiers, this time accompanied by two policemen in each military squad, would be sent to Manila and Caloocan, according to Col. Ricardo Visaya, chief of the Army's

SOLDIERS/ A22



CANDLES light up a marker with the names of victims of the Payatas trash slide seven years ago. A memorial service was held yesterday by relatives and friends of the victims. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Biogas project at Payatas dump

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE QUEZON CITY GOVERNMENT YESTERday held a groundbreaking ceremony at the Payatas dump for its biogas emission reduction project, which it described as its contribution toward reducing the harmful effects of global warming.

Louie Sabater, Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department planning officer, said the ceremony signaled the start of the project, which aims to convert methane gas harvested from the dump and turn it into a source of energy.

"The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has given us a letter of approval to finally begin the project," Sabater told the INQUIRER.

According to the official, the biogas emission reduction project has qualified as a Clean Development Mechanism, in accordance with the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention.

"As Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said, our priority is to keep our environment safe," Sabater said.

He added, "We are also doing this to improve the air quality of nearby communities."

Sabater said that in harvesting methane—a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide—and converting it into electricity, the city government is doing its share in lessening the effects of global warming.

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E-jeep test run results awaited

Borgy files counteraffidavit on mauling complaint

By Julie M. Aurelio

COMMERCIAL MODEL FERNANdo Martin "Borgy" Manotoc went to the Taguig City Prosecutors' Office yesterday to answer the charges of serious physical injuries filed against him.

Manotoc, the grandson of former President Ferdinand Marcos and the son of former Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, was tight-lipped when he presented himself to Prosecutor Ricardo Estrabo at around 11 a.m.

Manotoc's lawyer, Abraham Espejo, refused to discuss the contents of his client's counteraffidavit.

"But basically, the gist of it is that my client is innocent and that he is not in anyway involved in the mauling incident," Espejo told reporters.

Manotoc, and several others, have been accused by Carlo Brown, 22, of beating him up at the parking lot of the Embassy Bar in Taguig City on April 9.

Espejo expressed confidence that the case against his client would not prosper, as he claimed to have two witnesses testifying that Brown's injuries were caused by pieces of broken glass from a window which he punched.

However, Brown's lawyer, Herminio Banico, maintained that the physical evidence—the injuries Brown sustained—is stronger than any statement issued by witnesses.

"The physical evidence speaks for itself. It is unquestionable. Carlo has wounds on his head. And he does not have cuts on his hands to prove the witness' claim that Carlo punched a glass panel," Banico told the INQUIRER.

Brown's camp is set to file its reply to Manotoc's counteraffidavit on July 24. Espejo said they would submit a rejoinder affidavit, if necessary, on Aug. 14.

By DJ Yap

IF THE TEST RUN PROVES TO BE a success, "e-jeepneys" can potentially triple the income of drivers of passenger jeeps, the leader of a transport group said on Monday.

As a sign that they are warming up to the earth-friendly vehicles that run on electricity, Makati City jeepney drivers have expressed support for the test run.

"This project will be a big help to us jeepney drivers, and we hope it becomes successful," said Biminindo Jose, president of the Unified Transport Federation of Makati (UTFM). At present, a substantial portion of a driver's daily earnings is spent on diesel alone, he noted.

"Since the e-jeepneys run purely on electricity, jeepney drivers will no longer be burdened by the high price of gasoline," Jose added.

Makati City public affairs chief Joey Salgado said the two vehicles the city leased from Green Renewable Independent Power Producer (GRIPP) would start its regular run next week.

THE E-JEEPNEY, the Earth-friendly vehicle, runs side by side with the traditional passenger jeepney which runs on gas. The e-jeepney, on the other hand, is fueled by electricity. Jeepney drivers in Makati say the e-jeep could mean more income for them since they would no longer have to spend money on gas. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

He said the city was still formalizing talks with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board for guidelines on the operation of the vehicles.

The city is eyeing the stretch of Ayala Avenue from Edsa to the Makati Fire Station as the e-jeep route. Salgado said the matter of who would drive the two e-jeepneys is still up for discussion.

According to Jose, if the e-jeepneys prove to be feasible in the long run, Makati jeepney drivers could look forward to a three-fold increase in their daily income.

Since the e-jeepneys do not emit smoke, health risks for drivers are also substantially lessened, added Jose after a recent meeting with officials and engineers from the Solar Electric Co. (Solarco), Greenpeace and GRIPP.

Solarco and GRIPP engineers fielded technical questions from 24 leaders of jeepney operators' associations. The drivers also took turns driving the e-jeepneys.

The UTFM, the largest federation of jeepney drivers and operators in Makati, is composed of associations of drivers and operators plying 34 routes in the city.

Wounded guard foils attempt to rob Caloocan company

By Nancy C. Carvajal

EIGHT MEN WHO BROKE into the warehouse office of a forwarding company in Caloocan City at dawn the other day were stopped by a guard who shot and killed one of the suspects.

Police said the watchman, Marvin Sarip, 28, was stabbed by the suspects and was taken to the Manila Central University hospital for treatment.

PO1 Ronwaldo Bermudez, officer on the case, said Sarip was patrolling the premises of Trans Ocean Terminal located on Tawilis St., Dagatdagatan Extension, Caloocan City, at 1 p.m. Monday when he saw several men entering the warehouse through a side door.

Sarip accosted the suspects who attacked him before he could call for help from the other guards, Bermudez added.

"They ganged up on the victim and managed to stab him," the police investigator said. Sarip, however, was able to pull out his service firearm and fire on his attackers, killing one of the suspects on the spot.

The fatality was identified through an identification card found in his pocket as Rene Bawag, 22, of Landaska St. Torsillo, Caloocan City.

The police are now looking for the seven other suspects who were able to escape without taking anything with them, Bermudez said.

More drug raids to follow—Lim

By Allison W. Lopez

EXPECT MORE DRUG RAIDS IN MANIla after Mayor Alfredo Lim authorized the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) yesterday to conduct as many operations in the city as possible.

"Walang red tape *sa akin. Basta gusto ko maka-*score *kayo ng maka-*score," (I don't believe in red tape. All I'm concerned with is results), Lim told PDEA operatives in a meeting with PDEA director general Dionisio Santiago and other anti-illegal drugs groups in the city.

The mayor commended the drug agency's recent raids on shabu laboratories, particularly on Soler Street, where the PDEA confiscated millions of chemicals used for making the illegal drug.

The demolition of "Little Vietnam" in Quiapo on Friday, added Lim, was part of his administration's crackdown on alleged drug dens. He earlier vowed to rid the city of prohibited drugs in six months.

Santiago, a former general, said he shared Lim's advocacy against drugs and crime in general.

"We want to do the same things. we're both law-enforcement persons. *Kapag ganyan ang* chief executive *niyo, gagalaw talaga ang pulis* (The cops will do their job if they have a chief executive like him)," said Santiago of the former Manila police chief.

Policemen who protect drug syndicates, said Lim, will receive no mercy.

Members of the Dangerous Drugs Board, Philippine Coast Guard and Citizen's Crime Watch, also attended the conference and pledged their support for Lim's campaign.

"There is no room for failure. If there is anyone who can do this, it is each and everyone of us," said Lim, who told the groups to be unafraid in using "unorthodox methods" as long as these are within the law.

Soldiers return to QC, Taguig

From page A21

Civil Military Operations Battalion.

Visaya said the redeployment of the troops was ordered the other day by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

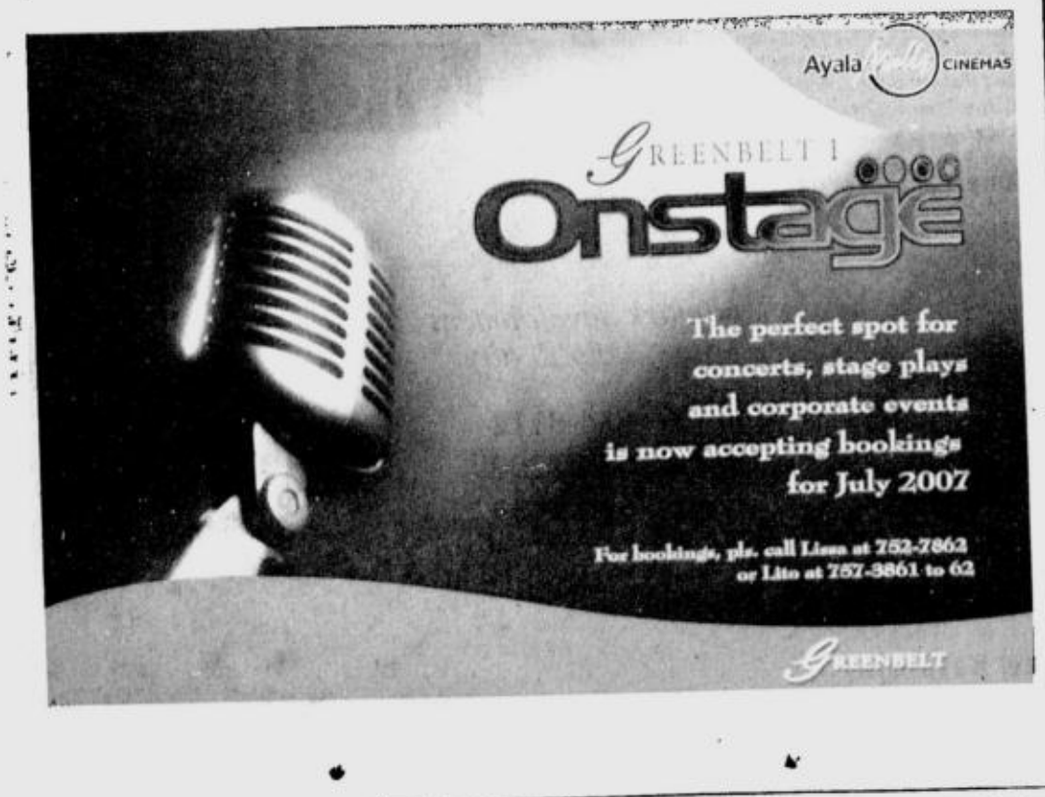
Apart from carrying out civil work in the communities, "more vigorous actions will be undertaken to educate the people about the deceptions of the Communist Party of the Philippines," Visaya added.

"They will be taught how to counter the recruitment of the CPP," the official said in a text message.

According to Visaya, soldiers will stay in the metropolis until "we are sure that the residents can already defend themselves."

The return of military troops to Metro Manila came two months after they were pulled out before the May 14 elections.

The Armed Forces deployed its men to poor barangays in the metropolis last year to train them on civil military operations and to stop an alleged recruitment program carried out by communists.



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SBMA-BAC-INV-06-07
Various Supplies/Equipment
SBMA, SBFZ

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY (SBMA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder items:

Lot #	Items to Bid	Approved Budget Cost (ABC)
LOT I	Various Office Supplies	P 8,762,250.62
LOT II	Engine Oils and Lubricants	P 1,607,695.00
LOT III	Various Battery Packs and Antennas for Motorola Handheld Radios	P 1,364,000.00
LOT IV	Two (2) units Rigid Inflatable Boats	P 1,600,000.00
LOT V	Three (3) Passenger Van	P 1,800,000.00
LOT VI	1) Two (2) units Patrol Motorcycle (400cc-600cc) 2) Two (2) units Dirty Bike type Motorcycle (125 cc)	P 1,400,000.00 P 120,000.00

Prospective bidders must be manufacturers or authorized distributors of the above-mentioned supplies and equipments for bidding, must have proof of completion for the delivery of the same and related project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary *"pass/fail"* criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 18 to 25, 2007 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	BAC Secretariat Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ.
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Lot I, II and III July 25, 2007 2:00 p.m. Wednesday LOT IV, V and VI July 26, 2007 2:00 p.m. Thursday	PPMD Conference Room Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ
3. Submission / Opening of Bids	LOT I, II and III August 8, 2007 2:00 p.m. Wednesday LOT IV, V and VI August 9, 2007 2:00 p.m. Thursday	Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***P5,000.00*** for Lot I and ***P1,500.00*** each for Lots II to VI to the SBMA Treasury Dept., Bldg. 229, Barryman Road, SBFZ.

The SBMA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOCELYN G. ALVARADO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – July 11, 2007)

METROBRIEFS

Japanese trader arrested

A JAPANESE businessman was arrested for allegedly mauling his 3-year-old stepdaughter to death inside a condominium unit in Manila last Sunday. Shiozawa Toshiyuki, 39, was arrested after Harrold Dua, his live-in partner and the girl's mother, filed a complaint with the police. Chief Insp. Alex Yanquiling, head of the Manila Police District homicide division, said the victim, Kate Julia, was rushed to the Manila Doctors Hospital with several bruises all over her body at 5 p.m. Sunday. Toshiyuki, however, claimed the victim was injured when she fell down the stairs in their unit at the Legaspi Towers on Vito Cruz St., Malate, Manila. The victim, however, died of injuries the following day. According to the victim's mother, her live-in partner often beat up her daughter, punching her and beating her with a stick. Yanquiling said murder charges would be filed against the suspect who is now detained at the MPD headquarters. "The suspect said he only wanted to discipline the victim because they were preparing to move to Japan," the police official said.

Tina G. Santos

Police question 49 persons

POLICE rounded up and questioned 49 persons when they raided a compound in Pasig City on Monday night. Led by Pasig City police chief, Senior Supt. Frank Uyami, the operation was conducted at about 9:30 p.m. at Vicper compound in Barangay Malinao. In a report, Uyami said two of those rounded up were detained after they were discovered to have standing arrest warrants. Uyami identified the two as Alexander Eugenio and Edgar Lleño, both of whom have pending warrants for charges of frustrated homicide and illegal gambling operations, respectively. Three other men were also arrested after police caught them using drugs in one of the houses in the compound. Uyami identified the alleged marijuana users as Bernardo Aboy, Limuel Mabuti and Frederick Herrera who was caught with two plastic sachets of marijuana leaves. Police immediately released those who did not have police records. Two weeks ago, the Pasig City police held a similar raid in Mapayapa Compound in Barangay Sto. Tomas, rounding up 45 people and detaining two persons.

Kristine L. Alave

Voice-as-asset seminar

AWARE of the significant role a professional's speaking voice plays in achieving his transactional objectives, voice therapy/rehabilitation specialist and classical singer Joscephine Gomez, ear, nose and throat specialist Dr. Gil M. Vicente, and Carlos Perion will hold a Voice-as-Asset seminar-workshop today until July 13, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on July 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at The Corporate Mind Training Room, City and Land Mega Plaza, ADB Ave. cor Garnet Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. They will talk about the scientific and aesthetic aspects of voice production and lead participants in discovering their "best voice."

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

58 killed in Pakistan mosque siege

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTANI TROOPS STORMED A pro-Taliban mosque in the heart of Islamabad on Tuesday in a bid to free hundreds of women and children, sparking fierce gun battles which left at least 58 people dead.

Massive blasts and intense gunfire rocked the Red Mosque while thick plumes of smoke rose above the complex. Dozens of ambulances raced casualties to hospital as witnesses said many bodies were inside the compound.

After nine hours of heavy fighting, the mosque's main cleric was barricaded in the basement with some women and children, the Army said. Militants armed with rocket launchers and machineguns were firing at troops from the minarets.

Several women in *burqas* and around 30 children escaped from the fortified mosque when the dawn attack began but hundreds remained inside as soldiers went through the compound's 75 rooms one at a time, facing bitter resistance.

"It is a final push to clear the mosque of armed militants," military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Waheed Arshad told AFP. He said around 50 militants and eight soldiers were confirmed dead and at least 15 soldiers were wounded.

"We are taking a step-by-step approach, a very deliberate approach, to make sure there is no collateral damage unnecessarily," he told reporters.

The militants "have turned the mosque into a trench for them, they have violated the sanctity of the mosque," Arshad said.

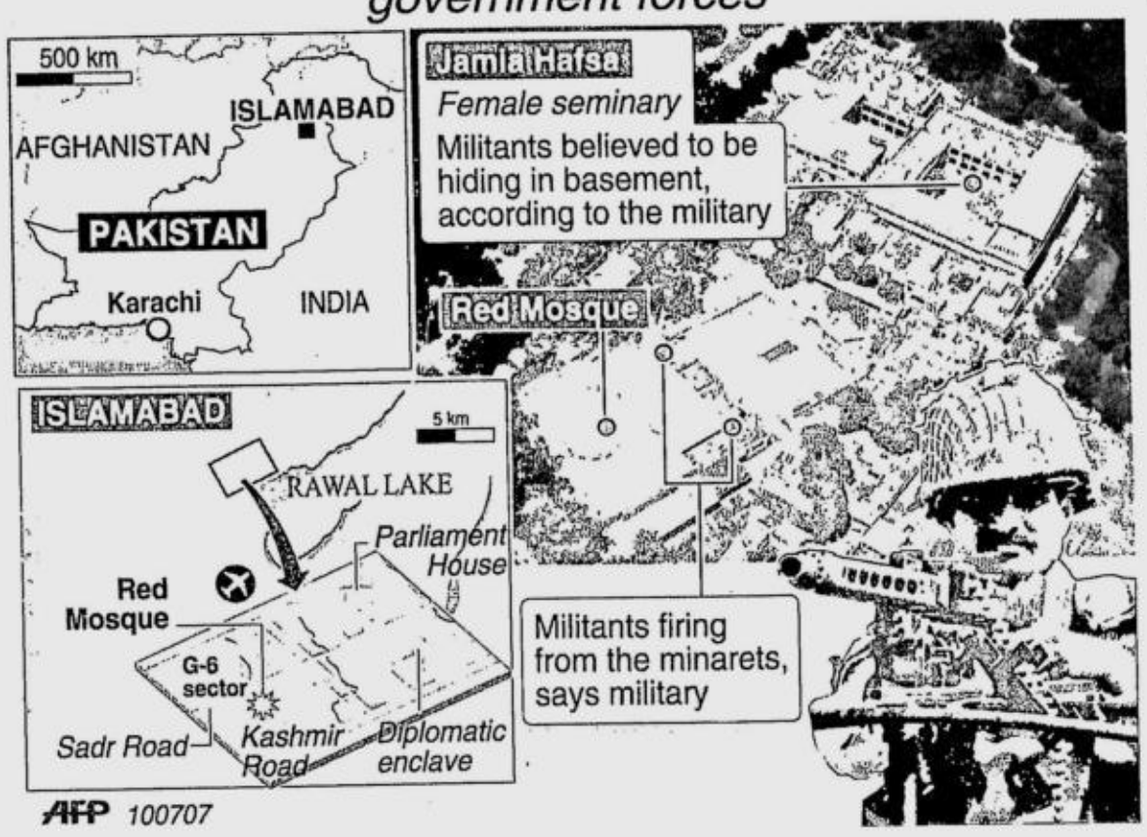
It was not clear how many militants or civilians were inside. The government has spoken of 100 militants and 300-400 women and children hostages, but mosque leaders have denied holding civilians as human shields and insisted all those in the compound were there voluntarily.

Fifty militants surrendered after they were given a final chance during a break in fighting.

A man who picked up one of the mobile phones belonging to Abdul Rashid Ghazi, the firebrand cleric leading the militants, said those inside were under massive bombing and gunfire. *AFP*

Red Mosque siege

Toll increasing as militants resist government forces



AFP 100707

SC to hear corruption case vs Thaksin

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S SUPREME Court agreed on Tuesday to hear corruption charges against toppled Premier Thaksin Shinawatra, in the first graft case against the billionaire to reach court since last year's coup.

Thaksin and his wife Pojaman have been charged over a controversial land purchase in 2003, and the former prime minister must now return to Thailand from exile abroad or face a possible arrest warrant.

"The judges have agreed to accept the case put forward by prosecutors. The first hearing will be on Aug. 14," said Tonglor Chomngarm, head of a panel of nine Supreme Court judges who will hear the case.

A court summons was expected to be delivered to the couple within three days, and prosecutors said that the pair, who are currently in London, must appear at the first hearing to enter a plea.

"The defendants have to come to the court on the first day—after that, they can ask the court to proceed without them," prosecutor Nanthasak Poonsuk said, adding that if they failed to appear, arrest warrants could be issued.

Thaksin and Pojaman are each charged with two violations of anticorruption laws. Thaksin is accused of illegally influencing a deal to allow Pojaman to buy land from a government agency at a bargain price.

The couple could be jailed for up to 13 years and each face a fine of up to 200,000 baht ($6,250) if convicted. *AFP*

Iraqis warn of catastrophe if US withdraws troops

BAGHDAD—SPOOKED BY A SUDden increase in calls in Washington for a rapid withdrawal of US troops from Iraq, Iraqi leaders on Monday scrambled to warn of catastrophe if their forces are left alone.

Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari led the charge, warning US lawmakers that their calls for a timetable for the departure of the 155,000 American troops could lead to the collapse of the Iraqi state and to yet more bloodshed.

"We held discussions with congressional delegations and explained to them the dangers of a rapid withdrawal, which would leave a security vacuum. It might lead to civil war, partition, collapse or a regional war," he said.

"There are some people who disagree with this assessment, but it's the responsibility of the United States and other countries to stand with the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people," he insisted.

While leaders from the Iraq's rival Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish camps disagree bitterly about many of the issues fueling the conflict, most are clear on one thing: The Iraqi security forces are not ready to fight on alone.

Most begin their responses to the question of the troops' US presence with an obligatory nod to Iraqi national pride; no one here wants the "occupier" to stay on forever. Nevertheless, it's far too soon for them to leave.

"Most of those in the Iraqi House of Representatives would like to see the presence of the US forces over for good," said Amira al-Baldawi, a Shiite member of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's ruling coalition.

"Everybody wishes them to leave, even the US forces themselves, but this initiative would be catastrophic if carried out before Iraq manages to set up its security forces," she told AFP.

"We need some time to complete our Army. Gradual and programmed withdrawal is very important," she insisted.

On the other side of the sectarian divide, leading Sunni lawmaker Nasser al-Ani, agreed with his Shiite colleague.

As is usual, he blamed the current violence on Washington's 2003 decision to dissolve ousted dictator Saddam Hussein's Army, but then went on to ask that US troops not be in a hurry to leave.

"The security apparatus could not yet take control of the situation," he said. "There was a liquidation of the best security forces and their top leaders, so a sudden American exodus would constitute a problem." Both US President George W. Bush and Iraq's Maliki, unlikely allies united by their tumbling domestic support and opposition to rapid troop withdrawal, had hoped to postpone this debate until September. *AFP*

ZHENG AP

China's ex-food and drug chief executed

BEIJING—CHINA EXECUTed the former chief of its food and drug watchdog on Tuesday, following a sensational downfall that saw him become a symbol of the ruling Communist Party's struggle against corruption.

The unusually swift execution of Zheng Xiaoyu, 62, announced by the official Xinhua news agency, also came rising international concern about the quality of the foods, drugs and many other products that China exports.

Zheng was sentenced to death in late May after being found guilty of accepting 6.5 million yuan ($850,000) in bribes in exchange for granting approvals for hundreds of medicines, some of which proved dangerous.

The former director of China's ministry-level State Food and Drug Administration, who served in the post until 2005, is believed to be the highest-ranking Chinese official put to death for seven years.

Other administration officials have also been implicated in the scandal and authorities said following Zheng's death that China was serious in wanting to protect the integrity of the nation's food and drug procedures. *AFP*

More oppose Iraq war, Bush ratings dip

WASHINGTON—OPPOSITION to the Iraq war in the United States is mounting and President George W. Bush's approval ratings have plunged to a new low, according to a poll released on Tuesday.

The poll results came as Congress renewed debate on war policy in Iraq with Bush facing unprecedented pressure from within his own Republican party to change course.

The USA Today/Gallup poll showed that seven in 10 Americans favor removing nearly all US troops from Iraq by April.

Only one in five said an increase in US forces in Iraq starting in January had improved the situation while half said Bush's "surge" strategy had made no difference, USA Today reported on Tuesday.

However, 55 percent said Congress should wait to formulate a new policy on Iraq until the commander of US forces there, Gen. David Petraeus, delivers an assessment in September.

Sixty-two percent of those surveyed said the United States had made a mistake in deploying troops to Iraq, the first time that figure exceeded 60 percent, the paper said.

The poll, conducted Friday through Sunday, also showed Bush's approval rating had declined to 29 percent, compared to 33 percent in June and 38 percent in April.

Bush's standing among fellow Republicans is also deteriorating, the poll said, with 68 percent of Republicans saying they approve of his performance, down from an average of 82 percent in his second term following his reelection in 2004. *AFP*

White House defies Congress in probe

WASHINGTON—THE WHITE House on Monday dared the Democratic-led Congress to fight it in court by refusing to provide information and testimony demanded in an investigation into the firing of federal prosecutors.

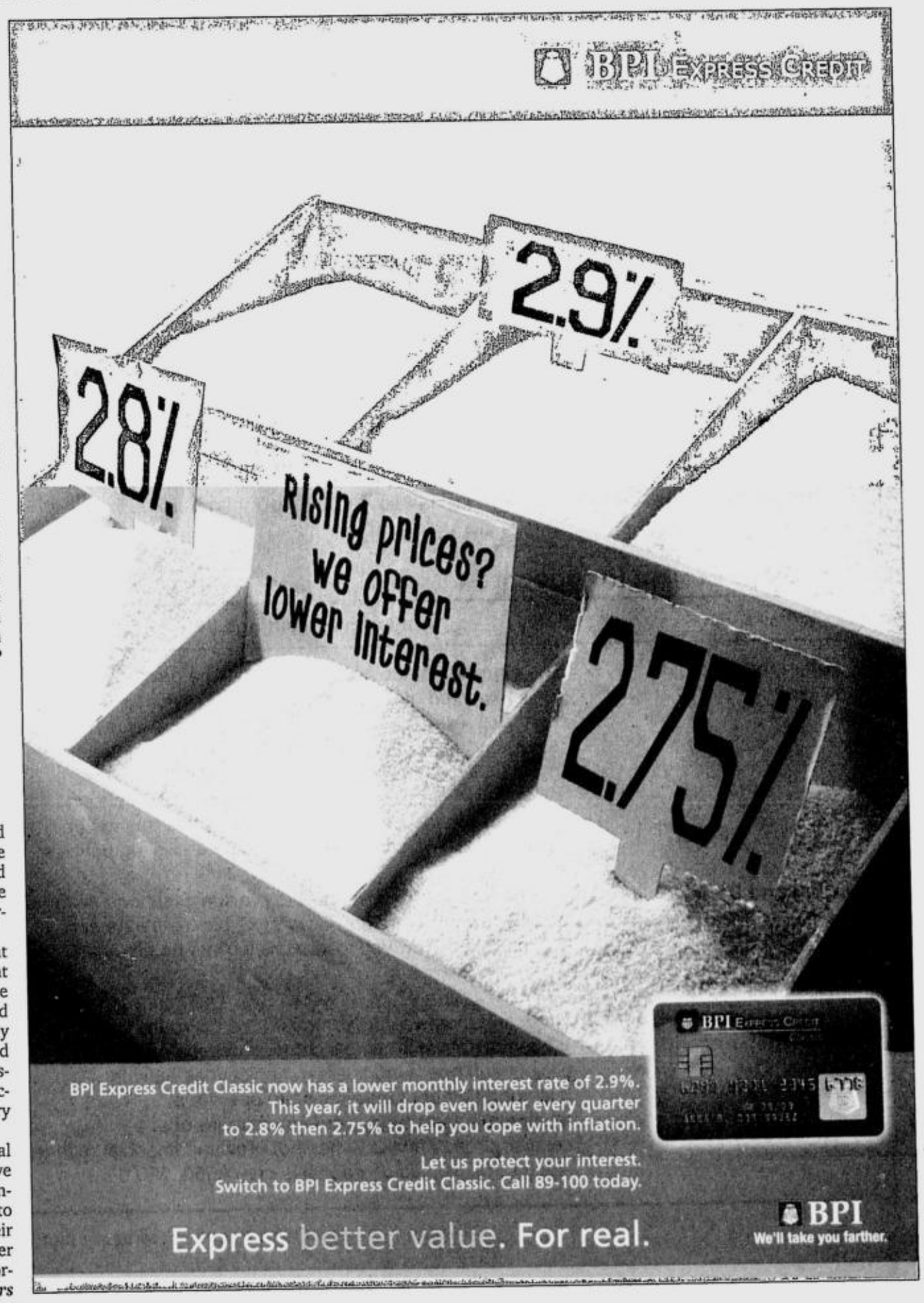
White House counsel Fred Fielding, in a letter to two congressional chairs, called their demands "unreasonable because it represents a substantial incursion into presidential prerogatives."

Congressional leaders disagreed and made it clear they were prepared for a court battle unless they reach a compromise with the White House on access to documents and witnesses.

"I hope the White House stops this stonewalling and accepts my offer to negotiate a workable solution," said Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat.

Democrats have sought compromise because a fight over whether Congress or the White House is right could take years to weave its way through the court system and still be undecided when President George W. Bush's second term ends in January 2009.

Bush is relying on a legal doctrine known as executive privilege, which has been invoked with mixed success to shield presidents and their aides from having to answer questions or turn over information to Congress. *Reuters*



SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW AND APPRECIATE THE COVERAGE OF THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK (NBN) PROJECT OF DOTC

1. Background

The NBN Project was conceptualized to address the needs of the Government in delivering services directly to the people, which can be greatly improved with the use of Information and Communications Technology. It is in line with the Government's Cyber Corridor Initiatives aimed at linking ICT sites all over the country and connect it to the outside world in order to develop the business processing capability in the country and sustain the creation of additional jobs for the Filipinos.

2. Coverage

The project intends to connect 2,295 major Government agencies/ offices and 23,549 Barangay/Municipal/Provincial LGU Offices up to the 5th class municipalities throughout the country.

3. Components

NBN Infrastructure – composed of Network Transmission Backbone, WiMax Network Cluster, IP Core Network, Integrated Data Center (IDC) and Network Support & Management Subsystems; and,

Network Application System/Services – composed of: 1. centralized network management system to manage the whole network remotely and efficiently; 2. VoIP System to provide telephone services; 3. Internet Access; 4. Video Conferencing System; and Intranet Services for efficient sharing of information.

4. Benefits

The project is favorable to the Government in terms of economic benefits due to an improved access to information which will result in fast delivery of services, savings in communication expenses, internet access, intranet capacity, O&M and optimum utilization of existing Government telecom facilities.

a. It will build a fully integrated Next Generation Network (i.e. network technology expected to be deployed within the next ten years in place of old technologies) that will allow voice and data services among the Government agencies.

b. It will fast track implementation of e-Government and e-Governance projects that will enable the people to have free access various services without traveling to the central offices of Government agencies (e.g. for NSO certificates, DFA Passports and etc.).

c. It will rationalize utilization of Government resources for ICT and avoid individual subscription by different Government Offices, thus will result in a reduction of Government expenses in communications.

d. It will optimize the utilization of existing government's telecommunication infrastructure while reducing its corresponding operating expenses.

e. It will make Government communications more accessible and more secure.

5. Concerns in the Telecommunication Industry

The NBN Project will be a Government network which will be purely utilized to improve delivery of services as allowed by Republic Act 7925. It will not be competing with existing private telecom carriers in the private arena. The transition of the Government to NBN will allow it to pursue privatization requirements of RA 7925 by forcing it to spin off its existing subscribers to the private sectors.

The NBN is not designed for cellphone service as this is already offered by existing carriers. On the other hand, the proposal of Amsterdam Holdings Inc. to offer cellphone services (i.e. 3G) but requiring direct support from the Government by way of guaranteed subscription by all Government Offices is deemed against the Government's policy.

It is anticipated that after the Government has provided e-Government services, the demand for ICT services will create tremendous opportunities for the private carriers.

6. Proper and Legal Procedures

a. The ZTE NBN project was first submitted last July 2007 in line with the Government's policy to develop ICT in the Country. It is in accordance with the Medium Term Philippine Development Program (MTPDP).

b. The project was endorsed to NEDA after the appropriate review and evaluation by the CICT and DOTC based on its feasibility to address the requirement of the Government to interconnect all its Offices up to the 6th class municipalities.

c. The NEDA Investment Coordination Committee and the NEDA Board reviewed and approved the implementation of the project on March 29 2007.

d. The project will be implemented through a Government to Government Agreement with funding coming from the Eximbank of China.

e. Being a Government to Government undertaking and a tied loan, the Chinese Government by its own processes has designated ZTE Corporation which is a state owned company, to be the contractor of the project.

f. The Contract was signed by the DOTC and ZTE last 21 April 2007 but shall take effect only upon compliance to certain conditions incorporated in the contract to ensure compliance to processes.

g. The project is not a BOT project subject to BOT law as it is, among other reasons, a Government to Government agreement.

7. Cost and Deliverables

The project, which will cost US$329M, will provide a nationwide coverage with 300 WiMax base stations capable of reaching Government offices within a 30km distance, 120 microwave backbone stations, 180 microwave spur link that will backhaul traffic from the WiMax base stations, 30 IP MPLSVPN Network Nodes, 25,844 Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) with 25,844 VoIP terminals, 1 redundant integrated data center/network operation center.

In addition, the project include among other applications and other non infrastructure deliverables such as: 1. Voice Over Internet Protocol System; 2. Video Conferencing System; 3. Intranet Applications; 4. Unified Network Management System; 5. Transfer of Technology through classroom and on-the-job trainings; and 6. 18 months manage services.

8. Other Project Proponents

	Amsterdam Holdings Inc.	ARRESCOM
Objectives	The objective of their project is to build a privately owned network aimed at providing cellphone services in areas mostly covered by existing private carriers. Its main market is targeted at the Government which will be required to issue an Executive Performance Undertaking that will ensure subscription of all Government agencies for cellphone and data services. The DOTC believed that this will be unfair to existing carriers and will violate existing policies.	The objective of the project is to connect all the Regional Offices of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). This is already covered under the NBN Project.
Cost and Deliverables	The project cost is US$240M to provide cellphone coverage up to 3rd class municipalities with 87 base stations and 500 cell sites. The VoIP terminals will not be provided under the project.	The project cost is US$135M to cover all the regional offices of the DILG with 21 Base stations all using satellite system for backhaul. In total, the project will be able to serve only 83 offices.
Proper and legal procedures	No information was presented on the company's organization. It has not shown technical competence in doing similar project and operating telecommunications network. It is not a holder of a franchise to operate a telecommunications system, much more offer a cellular phone service. It has not provided financial records except that its paid up capital is only P650, 000.00.	No information was submitted as to the company's profile. Technical capability to undertake the project is not documented. Likewise, no financial records were presented to support capability to undertake the project.

By: Department of Transportation and Communications

WHAT'S INSIDE

5 Pinoys seek boxing titles /A28

SPORTS

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San Mig-RP five falls to Kazakhs

Filipinos absorb worst of 4 losses

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

TAIPEI—AFTER MASTERFULLY hurdling the silver and bronze medalists of the 2006 Asian Games, the San Miguel-Pilipinas national team stumbled against an extra sharp Kazakhstan, 107-90, Tuesday at the close of the 29th William Jones Cup International basketball tournament here.

What had looked like a great buildup for the Filipinos for the coming Fiba Asia championship ended in a big disappointment for coach Chot Reyes, who said his boys didn't make any effort to avoid what became the worst of their four losses in nine games.

"Kazakhstan is a very strong team and I don't mind losing to them—but not this way," fumed Reyes, who came into the game inspired by an 88-80 win over Asiad runner-up Qatar Monday. "We didn't have any effort at all. This is unacceptable."

He said he saw this one coming in the second half of their game against Qatar and tried to keep the Filipinos' competitive juice flowing by ordering practice early in the day.

"But mentally, they had already checked out of this tournament," said Reyes, who went straight to the team bus after the game, then cancelled a team dinner. He confined his boys to quarters, banned visitors and ordered lights out at 10 p.m.

The Filipinos—who are leaving for home today, then play another series with Fiba Asia defending champion China, Lebanon and Syria starting Thursday—trailed by only four at 72-76 at the end of the third quarter behind Mark Caguioa, Jimmy Alapag and Kelly Williams.

But the Kazakhs, who have now beaten the Filipinos in all their four meetings, opened the fourth quarter with a 13-2 blitz to pull ahead at 89-74.

After Caguioa scored RP's second basket in the period with 6:20 left, the Kazakhs dropped a 15-6 bomb that pushed the advantage to 104-80.

"Let's pray that we don't meet the Kazakhs in the Fiba Asia because when you lose a game this way, they will have this in mind when we meet again," Reyes said.

Gone with the last-game debacle was RP's scant hopes of placing second in a tiebreak with Lebanon, the United States and Chinese Taipei.

With two games still to be played, the Filipinos are in fifth at 5-4.

Jordan won the championship despite a 102-101 loss to Japan. The Jordanians, who also own a 74-70 win over the Filipinos, finished at 7-2.

Aside from dominating the offensive boards, Kazakhstan burned the hoops with 16 triples out of 36 attempts. The Filipinos made 9 of 25.

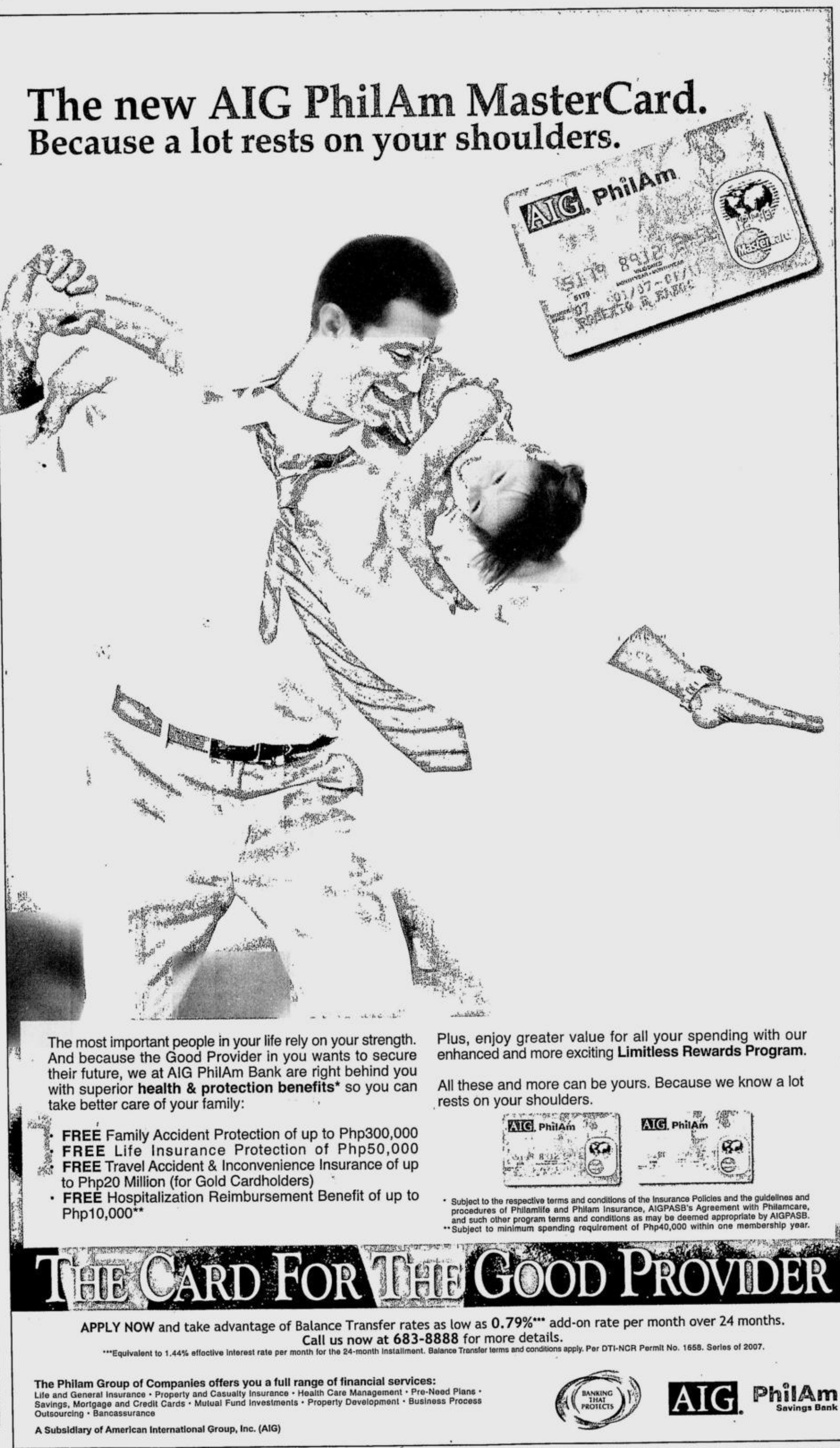
A casualty for RP was James Yap, who sprained his left ankle in the second period and had to be carried by Asi Taulava to the bench.

The scores:

KAZAKHSTAN 107—Rustam 28, Anton 23, Alexandr 12, Issakov 11, Mikhail 10, Andrey 10, Dmitry 7, Yegor 6, Ivan 0, Artyom 0, Voyeikov 0, G. Dmitry 0.

PHILIPPINES 90—Caguioa 24, Alapag 21, Hontiveros 14, Williams 13, Helterbrand 5, Taulava 3, Yap 3, Ritualo 3, Menk 2, Raymundo 2, De Ocampo 0, Pennisi 0.

Quarters: 21-22, 44-43, 76-72, 107-90



Phone Pals, Aces in vital tussle today

TALK 'N TEXT HOPES IT CAN USE MOMENTUM as a weapon when it tries to break a series deadlock with Alaska in Game 3 of a PBA Fiesta Cup finals that Aces coach Tim Cone said has become "unattractive" because of the whistle-happy referees.

The Phone Pals go into the 7 p.m. contest today at the Araneta Coliseum riding the wave of a 120-113 victory in Sunday's second game of the best-of-seven series.

And whether the rest of the series becomes a "free-throw shooting contest" or not, the bottom line is that the Aces will be the ones coming into the match needing to make adjustments.

After showing so much class in controlling the series opener, the Aces trailed all the way Sunday night, shocked at how aggressive the Phone Pals came out.

"To be fair, they kicked our butts out there," Cone said.

Mac Cardona reprised his role as the top Talk 'N Text local, making a mockery of all defenses thrown at him to shoot 30 points.

"We have to find a way to stop him (Cardona)," Cone said. "His energy has gotten the entire team involved."

While Cone conceded defeat in Game 2—despite Talk 'N Text missing 22 of its 49 charities—he still wished that officiating were more relaxed.

GAME TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
7 p.m.—Alaska vs Talk 'N Text

"I wish that the referees let the players decide this series," he said. "The problem is the referees are grandstanding out there. They might as well let the players play because this series has become unattractive."

There were a total of 69 fouls called Sunday night, 41 of them on the Aces. And Alaska would have been blown off the court early if not for Talk 'N Text's erratic free-throw shooting.

"We will continue to do what we are doing right," Talk 'N Text coach Derrick Pumaren said. "They (Aces) will make the adjustments and we should be able to anticipate those."

Among the things the Aces are expected to work on: The Phone Pals started out hot in each of the first two games, building double-digit leads as early as the second quarter.

Alaska managed to overcome one of those hot starts, pouncing on a Talk 'N Text squad that surrendered at the first sign of adversity. The Aces overcame a 17-point deficit to win 113-86.

Jeffrey Cariaso, out for the first two games because of a knee injury, is still listed as doubtful, leaving the local load mostly on the shoulders of MVP candidate Willie Miller and the comebacking Mike Cortez. *Musong R. Castillo*

SAN MIGUEL-Pilipinas spitfire Mark Caguioa pops a one-handed shot off a Kazakhstan defender during their game yesterday in the Jones Cup in Taipei. The Kazakhs won. Story on *A25*.

Ekwe returns as Lions seek No. 4; Knights take on Altas

WHAT AN OMINOUS day to get back into the groove for St. Benilde. Sam Ekwe is back in San Beda's fold.

Still strong enough to win convincingly without Ekwe, the Red Lions will once again parade their 6-foot8 Nigerian standout when they battle the Blazers at 2 p.m. today in NCAA men's basketball at The Arena in San Juan.

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	3	0
Letran	3	0
Jose Rizal	1	2
S. Sebastian	1	2
Perpetual	1	2
St. Benilde	1	2
Mapua	1	3

GAMES TODAY (*The Arena, San Juan*)
2 p.m.—San Beda vs St. Benilde (Srs)
4 p.m.—Perpetual vs Letran (Srs)

Co-leader Letran tries to keep pace when it tackles Perpetual Help in the 4 p.m. encounter.

Ekwe served a one-game suspension for kicking Perpetual Help's Korean player Lee Sang. And his return could only mean trouble for the Blazers, who are still reeling from back-to-back losses.

The Lions demolished the Mapua Cardinals, 87-77, last Wednesday, banking on its other mainstays led by veterans Ogie Menor and Yousif Aljamal and newcomers led by David Marcelo.

St. Benilde bowed to Perpetual Help, 62-52, and Letran, 92-81, after winning its first game over Mapua, 74-68.

Blazers coach Caloy Garcia had hoped that his four veterans would bring grit to the inexperienced crew. But after that first-game win, the guns of Paolo Orbeta, Christian Cabatu, Harvey Porras and Jeffrey Morial largely fell silent. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

UAAP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

2 big men underachievers no more

By Jasmine W. Payo

TWO BIG MEN ARE AMAZINGLY SHAking off the underachiever tag that had hung over them for several seasons in the UAAP men's basketball competition.

Long consigned to the background, Ford Arao of the Ateneo Blue Eagles and Joseph Linga-Lingao of the National U Bulldogs came out of their shells over the weekend and took charge in their team's first-day victories.

"He really wants to make a big impact this season," NU coach Manny Dandan said after his starting center powered the Bulldogs to a 73-70 overtime victory against Far Eastern in Saturday's opener.

The next day, Arao scattered 10 of his 20 points in the extra period of the Eagles' 69-63 come-from-behind triumph against the Adamson Falcons.

"We lost our three main men (to graduation), so I plan to keep on playing hard," the 6-foot-5 Arao said.

With their breakthrough performances, Arao and Lingao-Lingao shared the Player of the Week citation awarded by the UAAP Press Corps.

Lingao-Lingao, a wide-bodied 6-foot-5 Cebu native, unloaded 17 points, 13 rebounds, two assists and all of his team's five blocks to put the former cellar-dwellers on top early with powerhouses La Salle, Ateneo and University of the East.

Arao, who normed 4.4 points last year, also exploded with a double-double effort of 20 points and 15 boards.

"I'll give my best every game because this is my last playing year," said Arao, a former San Beda Red Cub standout.

Other nominees for the weekly honor include NU leader Edwin Asoro (17 points and 16 rebounds), University of the East's Mark Borboran (13 points, four boards, three assists) and La Salle's Cholo Villanueva (19 points, six rebounds, four assists).

NSAs asking for the moon

By June Navarro

LOCAL SPORTS LEADERS MAY BE ASKING for the impossible: P40 million for their athletes' preparation for the Thailand Southeast Asian Games in December.

Deputy chief of mission Richie Garcia said requests for equipment by various national sports associations (NSAs) have amounted to P40 million, something which the Philippine Sports Commission "cannot afford."

Garcia said the PSC could only set aside P20 million for the training gear of the 40 NSAs which have athletes competing in the SEA Games.

NSAs would be asked "to reduce the list (of equipment)" and to "prioritize and include only the essential items."

Garcia said PSC procurement officials would canvas the prices of equipment and purchase the brand requested by the NSAs.

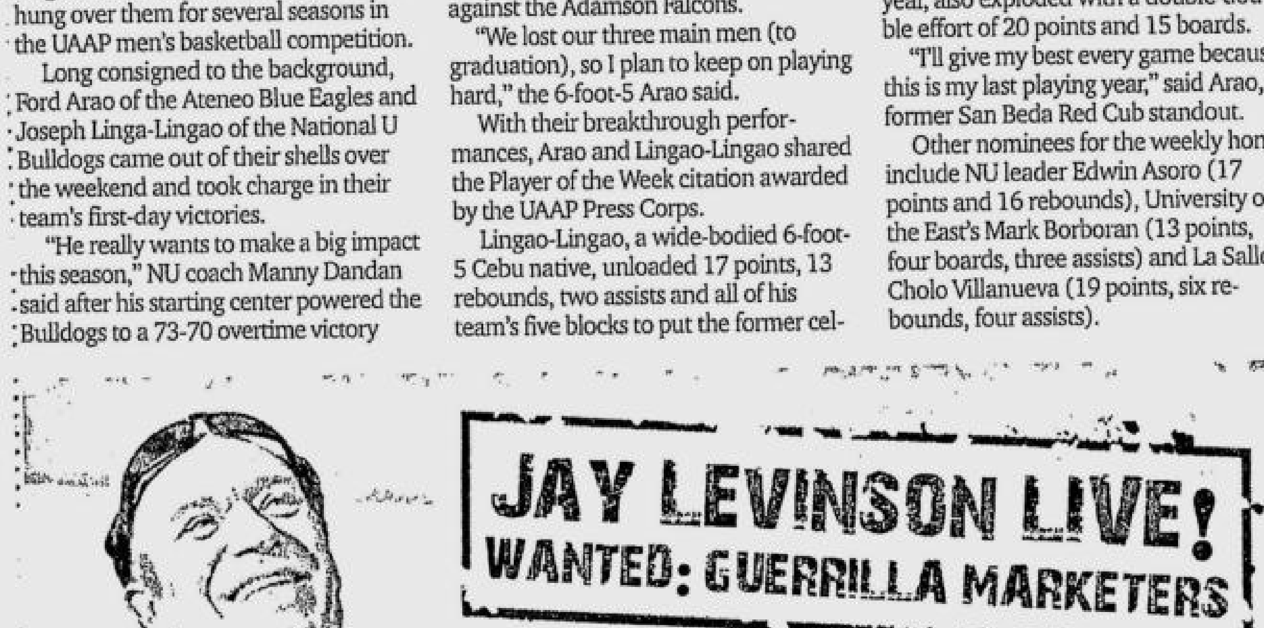
"The money will not go to the NSAs," he said. "They will tell us their preferred brand and procurement will coordinate with the suppliers."

According to Garcia, what some NSAs are asking for are more than what is necessary.

"NSA officials would sometimes ask for the equipment needs of 10 athletes, including those in the training pool, when only one or two athletes are qualified (to compete in the SEAG)," he rued.

Garcia said the PSC's P50-million budget for the SEAG stint could only shoulder the expenses of no more than 400 athletes and 200 officials.

Commissioner Joey Mundo said the PSC would spend P80,000 for each delegation member.



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SPORTSWATCH

'Hatawan' finals at RMC today

THE CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND OF "HATAWAN SA Tag-ulan" 6-cock derby sizzles starting at 10 a.m. today with 90 competitors vying for the coveted title at Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Today's 4-cock finale will have 180 fights. Defending champion Cesar Marquez, a backyard breeder from Quezon City, heads 57 participants with two wins each. According to host Rolly Ligon, the fastest win champion will get the bonus prize of P500,000.

Pasay derby stakes P2 million

A PRIZE POT OF P2 MILLION IS AT STAKE IN THE PCC 21st Anniversary 6-Cock Derby slated July 16, 18 and 20 at the Pasay City Cockpit. Sagupaan Complexor 3000 is backing the event. Just like in previous PCC anniversary cockfests, each participant will receive giveaways from the PCC management, said pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano. Participants vying in Monday's opening round must submit their entries on Sunday. Meanwhile, the venue's "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" unfolds today with P100,000 in guaranteed prize at stake.

Enriquez seeks another sweep

JOHNLERY ENRIQUEZ OF SUZUKI TRIES TO zero in on the overall title when he guns for a third straight sweep in the 2007 San Mig Coffee Philippine Underbone King Championship this Sunday at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Enriquez won all four races in the first two legs for a perfect 100 points in the 150cc Open class.

Sharing second place with 62 points are veteran Benjo Mendoza and Rizaldy Canare.

Leading the way in the 110cc Petron Super Stock Class fight is 13-year-old Fil-Japanese Dashi Watanabe with 75 points while Paul Mark Doblada and Raymund Santos are in second and third places with 71 and 69, respectively.

In the 125cc Sports Production Class, Maico Buncio of Yamaha is way ahead with 90, followed by Reuben Tan (62), Herbert Lopez (60) and Jeffrey Chan (56).

Listing is ongoing for the races in the third leg.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
Region IX
Municipality of Tigbao
7043

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Mindanao Rural Development Project II
Rehabilitation of Limas-Guinlin
Farm to Market Road/01-TIG-ZDS-07
Loan No. 7740-PH

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) *has applied* for a Loan from the World Bank toward the cost of Mindanao Rural Development Project II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the contract for *Rehabilitation/Improvement of Limas-Guinlin Farm to Market Road/01-TIG-ZDS-07*.
2. The *Municipality of Tigbao*, implementing partner of the Department of Agriculture, now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for *Rehabilitation/Improvement of Limas-Guinlin Farm to Market Road*.[1] Completion of the Works is required by *120 calendar days*.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Subject to exceptions stated in this Bidding Documents, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *P2,000.00*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before *8:00 a.m. of August 09, 2007*.
7. The *Municipality of Tigbao* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on *July 23, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.* at the following address *Municipal Hall, Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur*.
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before *August 10, 2007 at 8:00 a.m.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified (manager's or cashier's) check, bank guarantee and in an amount specified in the bid documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on *August 10, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on *August 10, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.*
9. The *Municipality of Tigbao reserves* the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Mr. Alex T. Cuajotor
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Poblacion, Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur 7043

(Sgd.) Signature of the BAC Chairman or Authorized Representative of the BAC Chairman

(PDI - July 11, 2007)

Top Pinoy cue stars in earners' top five

ORCOLLO

FILIPINO CUE MASters, led by Dennis Orcollo, are again raking in big money from international tournaments this year.

Not counting the still ongoing Predator World Straight Pool Championships, Orcollo already ranks third in the 2007 player money list, leading renowned countrymen Efren "Bata" Reyes and Ronato Alcano.

Boosted by his victory in the Bill Staton Memorial at the Q-Master Billiards in Virginia Beach on June 24, Orcollo raised his earnings to $41,500 (about P1.9M). Reyes, a many-time top earner, was at fourth with $39,350 and Alcano, the reigning world pool 9-ball and 8-ball titlist, fifth with $35,900.

Reigning women's world champion Xiao Ting-pan of China is the top grosser thus far with $54,600, followed closely by American Johnny Archer with $54,600.

Orcollo, the 2007 BCA Enjoypool.com 9-ball winner, can gain on the pacesetters if he can sustain his hot start in the World 14.1 Straight Pool Championship at the Hilton Hotel in East Brunswick, New Jersey.

The 28-year-old Orcollo, a former fisherman in Bislig, Surigao del Sur, clobbered Americans Tony Rodriguez, 100-17, and Peter Burrows, 100-21, in Group 2 being lorded by Nick Van den Berg of the Netherlands with three straight wins.

Cebuano Warren Kiamco, on the other hand, trounced American Max Eberle, 100-70, and subdued German Nico Otterman, 100-96, to share the Group 5 lead with American Joey Kong, winner over Otterman, 100-57, and American Ed Deska, 100-87.

The 64-player field has been drawn into eight round-robin groups. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Belgians take charge

Finish 1-2 in 2nd stage; Swiss keeps Tour lead

GERT Steegmans of Belgium (top) and compatriot and teammate Tom Boonen help rebuild Quickstep's team spirit with the 1-2 finish. REUTERS

GHENT, BELGIUM—THE TOUR de France veered into Belgium on Monday, and Gert Steegmans responded with a victory before his home fans in a country passionate about its cycling.

"What an explosion of emotion it was after the finish," he said. "It was really important for the team. You could feel this enormous pressure because we're a Belgian team."

Steegmans avoided a late crash that slowed many riders and left them with scrapes and bruises. He led a 1-2 Belgian finish with Tom Boonen in winning a Tour stage for the first time.

"I think it was a perfect picture, the two of us next to each other," Steegmans said.

He covered the 168.5-kilometer (104.7-mile) course on rain-drenched roads from Dunkirk, France, to Ghent in three hours, 48 minutes, 22 seconds. Switzerland's Fabian Cancellara kept the leader's yellow jersey.

Steegmans hoped his victory would help rebuild spirits at Quick-Step, a team under pressure amid speculation about doping.

"There was a big attack from one newspaper on our team," Steegmans said. "It was a hard time for us—especially when you take a train, people see you as a gang member and not as a team rider."

Cycling's credibility clearly is on the line amid doping scandals and investigations. Floyd Landis, the 2006 Tour champion, could be stripped of his victory.

Belgian police temporarily detained 13 people for questioning last month after seizing banned substances in raids on homes of cyclists and their associates, including a Quick Step team staffer. The team denies any wrongdoing.

Steegmans, Boonen and third-place finisher Filippo Pozzato of Italy were among about 20 cyclists who were ahead of a crash that delayed all other riders in the main pack with about two kilometers (1.2 miles) left.

American George Hincapie was cut and bruised, and Discovery Channel teammate Tomas Vaitkus of Lithuania dropped out of his debut Tour after breaking his right thumb in five places. *AP*

Four squads share WGAP Circuit lead

THE BATTLE FOR THE OVERALL title in the WGAP (Women's Golf Association of the Philippines) Circuit tightens up with four teams tied for the lead after the first three legs played at various venues.

Defending champion Manila Southwoods, Alabang, Valley and Tagaytay Highlands have accumulated 10 points each to forge the logjam at the top. Sta. Elena is not far behind at 7 points with Forest Hills in fourth with five.

Southwoods was the top point-getter in the first two legs played at Alabang and Forest Hills. At Alabang, Southwoods ladies took the Class B title and placed third in Class A while at Forest, the Carmona, Cavite, bets won Class A and wound up second in Class B.

Highlands, meanwhile, had a measly four points in the first two legs but dominated the third leg at Valley with 6 points—the highest by a team so far in the series.

Highlands topped Class C, placed second in Class A and notched a runner-up finish in Class B.

Valley, which lost to Southwoods in the WGAP Cup last year, is out to make a return trip to the season-ending finale. It has two Class A wins so far and two runner-up finishes.

The WGAP Circuit resumed with the fourth leg yesterday at the Riviera in Silang, Cavite.

Individual champs for each leg were Beachie Abiera, Mabec Kawsek and Ma. Ymir Oliquino at Alabang, Beth Menchavez, Florence Okiyama and Renee Francisco at Forest Hills and Loida Arnold, Rosalie Heo and Sherry Yambao at Valley.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The **NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY** is inviting offers to purchase/lease by way of sealed bids the following commercial properties on an *"As Is – Where Is"* basis:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/ SQ. METER
I.	PUBLIC BIDDING		
	A. SALE		
	SECOND TENDER		
01-044	44 commercial lots 73 sqm. to 297 sqm.	Pkgs 3 & 5, Ph. XI, Bagong Silang, Caloocan City	P 3,520/sqm. to P3,600/sqm.
	B. LEASE/LEASE WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE		
	SECOND TENDER (LEASE)		
045-046	2 commercial lots 812 sqm. & 813 sqm.	Block 24, Phase II Karangalan Village, Pasig	P 42.00/sqm./mo.
	FIRST TENDER (LEASE WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE)		
047-065	18 commercial lots 351 sqm. to 496 sqm.	NHA Teachers Village Zamboanga City	P 5.44/sqm./mo. to P 5.83/sqm./mo.
066	Foreclosed lot with unfinished 3-door apartment building	Gov. Alvarez St. Zamboanga City	P 67,463.75/mo.
The following properties are now qualified for NEGOTIATED SALE:			
01-03	3 commercial lots, 276 sqm. to 470 sqm.	Ph. X, Pkg. 6, Bagong Silang, Caloocan City	P 2,400/sqm.
04-031	28 commercial lots 74 sqm. to 324 sqm.	Mayon Vista Hills Subd. Ligao City, Albay	P 1,540/sqm. to P 1,785/sqm.
032-045	14 commercial lots 50 sqm. to 63 sqm.	Phase X, Towerville Resettlement Project San Jose Del Monte City	P 2,800/sqm. to P 3,000/sqm.
046	936 sqm. lot with structure	Banahaw St. Quezon City	P 15 Million
047-064	18 commercial lots 351 sqm. to 496 sqm.	NHA-Teachers' Village Zamboanga City	P 1,304.55/sqm. to P 1,400/sqm.

All properties for sale are covered with individual titles. Repayment period is a maximum of ten (10) years at an interest rate of 18% per annum.

Lease period is for a maximum of fifteen (15) years renewable for another five (5) years at the option of NHA.

For those who will participate in the public bidding, **BIDDING MATERIALS** may be secured for a non-refundable fee of Php 200.00 from the ***Commercial & Industrial Bids and Awards Committee (COINBAC), c/o CIED***, 2nd Floor, NHA Building, Elliptical Road, Q.C. For inquiry, please call Ms Evelyn V. Ramos at the fl. tel. nos.: 922-3002, 928-4561 loc. 262-263.

ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE		VENUE	
	Main Office	Zamboanga	Main Office	Zamboanga
A. Submission of Pre-qualification Requirements	July 12 – 19, 2007 8:00 am – 5:00 pm	July 12 – 19, 2007 8:00 am – 5:00 pm	2nd Floor CIED NHA Main Office Diliman, Q.C.	NHA Project Office Zamboanga
B. Pre-Bid Conference	July 16, 2007 9:00 – 11:00 am	July 26, 2007 9:30 am – 12:00 nn	Operations Center, 3rd Flr. NHA Main Office	NHA Project Office Zamboanga
C. Submission of Sealed Bids	July 24, 2007 8:00 am – 12:00 nn	July 31, 2007 9:30 am – 12:00 nn	Operations Center	NHA Project Office Zamboanga
D. Opening of Bids	July 24, 2007 1:30 pm	July 31, 2007 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Operations Center	NHA Project Office Zamboanga

Letters of Intent for items for negotiated sale may be secured from *COINBAC* or *CIED* or from the following:

PROJECT LOCATION	CONTACT PERSON	OFFICE/TEL. NOS.
Bicol Projects	Engr. Alberto Perfecto Deputy Area Mgmnt. Officr.	2nd Floor, Quilain Bldg., Ligao City, Albay 052-4852963, 052-4852955
Zamboanga Project	Doris A. Siao OIC	Nationwide Appliance Center, Inc. Bldg. Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City 062-9925516
Bagong Silang Project	Engr. Ramon Reside Project Manager	NHA Project Office, Lot 7, Block 9, Phase I, Area I, Bagong Silang, Cal. City 02-9628188
Quezon City	Evelyn V. Ramos Division Manager	2nd Floor, NHA Main Office Diliman, Quezon City 02-922-3002, 02-9284561 loc. 262 or 263

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bid offers and applications for negotiated sale/lease, or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers/applications most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) FROILAN R. KAMPITAN
Charperson, COINBAC
Assistant General Manager

(PDI – July 11 & 15, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
HSBC ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING (PHILIPPINES) INC. 5150 North Bridgeway, Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Stuart David Townsend	Vice President-Editorial and Design Group
YOUNG GALAXY RESIDENCE INN & RESTAURANT INC. 558 Gen. Malvar St., Malate, Manila	Hyung Suk Kim	General Manager
YOUNG GALAXY RESIDENCE INN & RESTAURANT INC. 558 Gen. Malvar St., Malate, Manila	Sa Nye Kim	Operations Manager
FILACE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY CORP. 7 Amber Square Esriba Drive, San Antonio, Ortigas, Pasig City	Kee Ho You	President
FILACE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY CORP. 7 Amber Square Esriba Drive, San Antonio, Ortigas, Pasig City	Sung Shin Noh	Vice President
FOOTZONE HEALTH CENTER, INC. 17 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.	Yuanyuan Shi	Consultant
SCANOCEAN SERVICE, INC. 4/F Rm. 403 Marioco Bldg., 1945 M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila	Kjell Bernhard Sundberg	President
JINDALLE RESTAURANT/KTV 110 Real St., Pamplona, Las Pinas City	Heachang Yang	Corporate Communications Manager/Korean Consultant
MASAN GARDEN RESTAURANT COMPANY 29 Polaris St., Bel-Air 1, Makati City	Hyoung Ja Kim (w/o Lee)	General Manager
BILKISH LOANS AND CREDITS OUTSOURCE SERVICES Unit 317 Gateway Centre, Paseo de Magallanes, Makati City	Rishi Mahadev Chandnani	Regional Manager
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AFTER CONDES, DONAIRE

5 RP pugs eye titles

FLORANTE Condes shows his belt upon arrival in Manila yesterday. JESS YUSON

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

MANNY PACQUIAO'S LOOMING FIGHT AGAINST MEXICAN RIVAL MARCO Antonio Barrera has been overshadowed by recent world title conquests by a pair of unheralded Filipino boxers.

And if plans don't miscarry, five more Pinoy pugs will show that there is more to Philippine boxing than just Pacquiao, the top-grossing pound-for-pound king.

Bohol's Czar Amonsot is scheduled to face Michael Katsidis on July 21 at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. Amonsot will be trying to unseat Katsidis as WBA interim lightweight king.

Amonsot, the Cebu-based fighter from the ALA stable, holds the WBO Asia Pacific crown. He has been working out at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym in preparation for Katsidis.

On Aug. 4, another Cebu-based fighter, Rodel Mayol, takes a crack at IBF junior flyweight champion Ulises Solis at the All-State Arena in Chicago. The May-ol-versus-Solis bout will be in the undercard of the Erik Morales-David Diaz WBC lightweight showdown.

Two popular names will gun for world titles on Aug. 11 at the Arco Arena in Sacramento, California.

Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista will try to wrest the WBO super bantamweight title from champion Daniel Ponce De Leon. Peñalosa, on the other hand, takes on WBO bantamweight titleholder Jhonny Gonzalez.

Yet another Cebu fighter, Eriberto "Yukka" Gejon, will go up against WBA minimumweight kingpin Yutaka Niida on Sept. 1 at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo.

This will be a rematch of their 2005 showdown won by Niida via a highly-disputed 10-round technical decision in Yokohama, Japan.

The fights come on the heels of victories by Florante Condes and Nonito Donaire, who won world crowns less than 24 hours apart.

Condes, nicknamed "The Little Pacquiao" due to his southpaw stance and tremendous punching power, was the first to become a world champion when he decisioned Muhammad Rachman in Jakarta last Saturday to take the latter's IBF minimumweight crown.

Less than 24 hours later, Donaire, born in Gen. Santos City but now based in the US, shocked the world with a fifth-round knockout of the erstwhile unbeaten Vic Darchinyan to take the latter's IBF and IBO flyweight crowns.

"I know they can also make us all proud," Condes said in Filipino of his five countrymen who will seek world championships this year.

OVERCOMING BALDNESS

THINK-A-HEAD

No man likes being bald. He may try to ignore it, but deep inside, there's a nagging feeling that life has been unfair. Why me? Why have I gone bald when my friends haven't? Many men sadly accept looking older, being called "Baldie," feeling not so attractive to the opposite sex and putting up with the other handicaps baldness brings – both socially and career wise.

Other men refuse to accept baldness and look for a way out – this is when a wrong decision can lead to an even worse state of frustration and despair. Before you do anything about baldness, read the answers to these most asked questions.

Q. I DON'T LIKE BEING BALD – WHAT CAN I DO?
A. There are basically two ways to go. Some men opt for a surgical hair transplant. Others for the non-surgical alternative. When making the decision there's one essential rule: *THINK-A-HEAD!* - it's not only the immediate results that are so important, it's what your head is going to look like in a few years.

Q. OK, SO WHAT ABOUT SURGICAL TRANSPLANTS?
A. Some say transplants have come a long way since the early days, others say they haven't come far enough. Basically, the surgical process involves taking donor hair from elsewhere on the recipient's head and transplanting it to the balding areas.

Q. DOES TRANSPLANTED HAIR CONTINUE TO GROW?
A. If the surgery has been performed well, the transplanted hair will continue to grow, as it did before it was moved.

Q. CAN ANY BALD MAN HAVE A TRANSPLANT?
A. It's not really possible for a man with advanced baldness because he simply would not have sufficient donor hair to cover his large bald area. Transplants do not increase the number of hairs on a man's head, it's just a case of redistributing them. Transplants are excellent for filling in smaller areas or adding extra hair to thinning parts where there is not expected to be further hairloss.

Q. ARE THERE ANY PROBLEMS WITH TRANSPLANTS?
A. For men whose baldness will not advance further, there seems little downside to having a transplant.

Q. BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF I CONTINUE TO GO BALD?
A. For those whose hairloss continues to advance, there can be significant problems. While the transplanted hair will carry on growing, his other hair becomes thin in contrast as he progressively goes bald. He can have further transplants, but it's likely donor hair will become insufficient as the donor areas do not re-grow hair. The result might be patches of thicker-growing hair among thinning and sparser hair – and this won't take long to happen. The ensuing odd appearance of the man's head can cause him further embarrassment and stress. Speed of hairloss varies, but for most it takes just a few short years from thinning to full-blown baldness.

If a man suffers from Male Pattern Baldness, which usually strikes when he's in his early twenties or thirties, his hairloss will likely continue until he's bald. This is where the catch-phrase *THINK-A-HEAD!* comes into play. Think what your head will look like in a few years after surgical transplanting – will you want to go out in public?

Q. I DON'T WANT THAT RISK, SO WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?
A. The non-surgical alternative is TCR or Transdermal Cosmetic Reconstruction. It's a super-fine synthetic skin with hair seen to be actually growing from it, which is then bonded to your scalp.

Q. IS TCR FOR ANYONE, NO MATTER HOW BALD HE MIGHT BE?
A. Yes, this advanced system is ideal for any state of hairloss and baldness, even for those with only a small amount of hair at the back and sides – the sort of baldness which is really not suitable for a transplant.

Q. HOW REAL IS TCR, WILL IT LOOK GENUINE?
A. TCR is real, natural hair, which looks and feels as if it's growing from your scalp. TCR cannot be distinguished from your own hair, even by touching. You are not "wearing" it, it's part of you.

Q. DOES TCR REQUIRE SPECIAL CARE?
A. To keep TCR perfect, you need only visits to the stylist every two or three weeks, just as any man does for the cutting and styling of his hair. As you get older, your TCR can be subtly aged and grayed, just as your full head of hair would have looked had you not lost any.

Q. IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE – WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?
A. There are no problems. You can do anything with TCR, it's your new full head of hair. It feels totally natural on your head – you're not aware of it. The only times you'll be reminded that you're no longer bald is when you look in the mirror and how others react to you – remember, you're going to look years younger!

Q. IS TCR AVAILABLE IN MANILA?
A. Yes, it's available in Manila at Svenson, the hair replacement specialists.

Q. IS TCR SUITABLE FOR ME?
A. To find out if your scalp condition and skin type are suitable for the TCR procedure, book a no-cost TCR fact-finding consultation by calling 892-4247.

ADVT

Local shuttlers under the gun in RP Open

TOP LOCAL SHUTTLERS ARE EXPECTED to be put through the wringer again when they vie against some of the world's top players in the second Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open Badminton Championships from July 18-22 at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig.

A total of 35 Filipinos headed by the brother-sister tandem of Kennevic and Kennie Asuncion, last year's losing finalists in the mixed doubles, are on the roster of entries in the $121,000 event that has lured 31 countries and 319 players.

Indonesia is sending the biggest number with 42, followed by Malaysia's 37.

Five of the world's top 10 are seeing action in the men's singles, headed by No. 2 Chen Hong of China, No. 3 Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia, No. 6 Bao Chunlai, also of China, No. 8 Kenneth Jonassen of Denmark and No. 9 Taufik Hidayat of Indonesia, the reigning Olympic and Asian Games champion.

Heading the ladies singles field are world No. 2 Xu Huaiwen of Germany and No. 6 Pi Hongyan of France, while Malaysia's world No. 9 pair of Koo Kien Keat and Tan Boon Heong and the No. 6 Indonesian tandem of Candra Wijaya and Tony Gunawan are the teams to beat in the men's doubles.

Other world-ranked teams in the fold are No. 4 Chien Yu-chin and Cheng Wen-hsing of Chinese Taipei in women's doubles and the No. 4 pair of Nova Widianto and Lilyana Natsir of Indonesia in the mixed doubles.

Philippine Badminton Association vice president Edgar Aglipay said world-caliber events like the RP Open leave a big impact on Filipinos and the local sport.

"This event will further boost the development of badminton in our country and take it to a higher level," said Aglipay, also the chair of the organizing committee.

The RP Open is organized by IMG.

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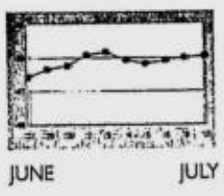

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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As of 5 p.m., July 10, 2007

By Michelle V. Remo

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS GREW 6.1 percent to $4.12 billion in May from a year ago, boosted by the double-digit growth in export earnings by the electronics sector, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

While the exports growth in May was much faster than the 5.1 percent in April, it was not enough to bring the average for the first five months to the desired double-digit growth.

NSO figures showed that from January to May, the average growth in exports stood at 7.7 percent. The government had set an official exports growth target of 11 percent for the full year, banking on the anticipated rise in global demand for consumer electronics.

EXPORTS/ B3

SPECIAL REPORT

Strengthened by '80s crisis, RP spared from full effects of financial tsunami /B2

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1997 ASIAN CONTAGION IN RETROSPECT

RP spared from full effects of financial tsunami

By Doris C. Dumlao, Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson and Daxim L. Lucas

(First of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

HANDICRAFT EXPORTER LOIDA RAPAL could not believe her luck a decade ago when the peso suddenly broke past 26 to $1—diving to nearly 30—and continuing to falter after that.

For her, it was like manna from heaven.

"We were overwhelmed," said Rapal, whose Las Piñas-based company RH Excelcrafts makes handicraft for American retailers such as Wal-Mart, MarMaxx and Target. "Because of the dollar's depreciation, we were able to acquire additional working capital."

But what was a boon to exporters and households with relatives working abroad was devastating for big corporations saddled with dollar-denominated debts while relying on peso earnings. In the years before that, the foreign exchange stability emboldened a lot of companies to tap foreign currency-denominated loans—even without the natural hedge that exporters enjoy.

As local interest rates were also much higher then, they found it less expensive to borrow in dollars to finance capital-intensive projects, such as building upscale condominium buildings and leisure estates.

When the peso's value plummeted, these companies' debt servicing soared. When the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) raised interest rates to defend the local currency, companies that were heavily indebted in pesos were choked as well.

These big borrowers, in turn, accounted for the bulk of banks' loan portfolios. This overreliance on banks, in part due to the country's underdeveloped capital market, thus pushed many banks to the breaking point, accumulating more than P300 billion in bad loans and foreclosed assets over the last decade.

As a result, the country's economic growth slowed down, its foreign exchange transactions with the rest of the world or balance of payments turned into a deficit and the inflation rate—or the pace of increase in average prices of goods consumed by a typical household—shot up to a high of 9.3 percent.

This cataclysmic phenomenon became what is now referred to as the 1997 East Asian financial crisis—a financial tsunami that swept across Southeast Asia, rippling outward from Thailand in a few short weeks.

RP 'insulated'

BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. believes that the country was spared from the full effects of the financial crisis. This was due, in part, to the fact that the country hopped onto the economic boom bandwagon much later than its more affluent neighbors.

"We were late-comers to the party, so asset prices in the country did not have the chance to appreciate as much," he said.

At the time the crisis erupted, Tetangco was managing director at the central bank. He says the country's experience with another debilitating crisis in the previous decade helped regulators and market players keep

RP SPARED/ B9

The beginning of the Asian financial crisis

(Chronology) March to December 1997

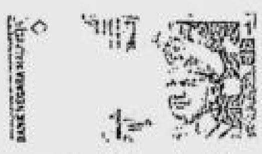
March -June - Sixty-five Thai finance companies secretly receive substantial liquidity support from the Bank of Thailand. Significant capital outflows followed.

June 29 - Thailand suspends operation of 16 finance companies and announces a guarantee of depositors' and creditors' funds in remaining finance companies.

July 2 - Thai baht is floated and depreciates by 15-20 percent.

Early July - Pressure on the Indonesian rupiah develops.

July 8-14 - Malaysia Bank Negara Malaysia intervenes aggressively to defend the ringgit but eventually the ringgit was allowed to float.



July 11 - Indonesia widens the rupiah's trading band.

July 11 - The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas devalues the peso as demand for US dollars escalates.

July 13 - Several Korean banks are placed on negative credit outlook by rating agencies.

July 24 - "All currency meltdown"-Massive selldown of the rupiah, baht, ringgit and peso.

August 5 - Thailand adopts measures to strengthen financial sector. Operations of 42 finance companies suspended.

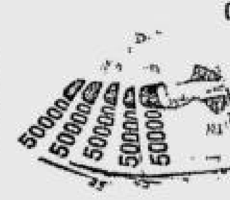
August 14 - Indonesian authorities abolish band for rupiah, which plunges immediately.

August 20 - Thailand enters into a three-year standby arrangement with the International Monetary Fund.

August 25 - Korean government guarantees banks' external liabilities; withdrawal of credit lines continues.

October 14 - Thailand financial sector restructuring strategy announced; Financial Sector Restructuring Agency and Asset Management Company established; blanket guarantee strengthened and new powers given to intervene in banks.

October 24 - Thailand issues emergency decrees to facilitate financial sector restructuring.



October 31 - Indonesia Bank resolution package announced; 16 commercial banks closed; limited deposit insurance for depositors in other banks; other bank closures to follow.

November 5 - Indonesia's three-year standby arrangement with IMF approved.

November 19 - Korean exchange rate band widened. Won falls sharply.

Mid-November - Change in government in Thailand. Significant strengthening of economic reform program.

November - Korea Asset Management Corp. (Kamco) nonperforming asset fund is established.

December 4 - IMF approves three-year standby arrangement with Thailand, Indonessia and Korea, but rollover of short-term debt continues to decline.

(SOURCE: IMF)

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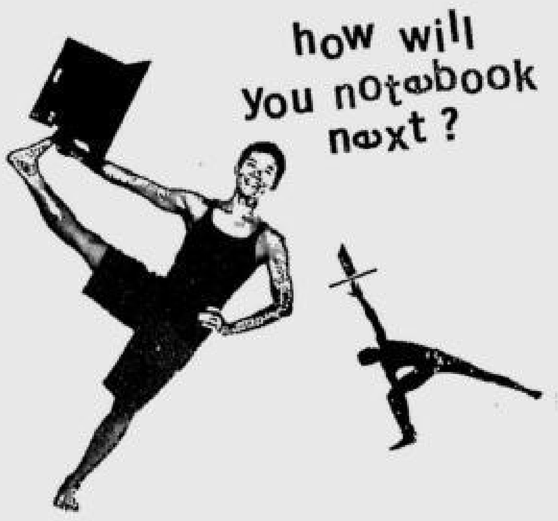

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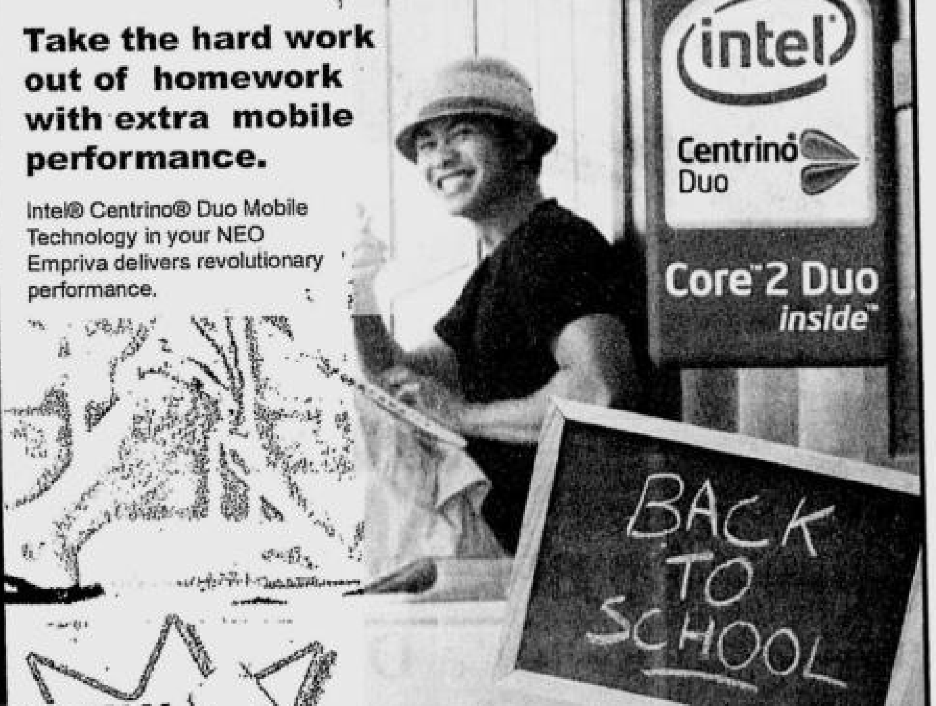

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Crisis changed IMF as well

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ASIAN CURRENCY CRISIS a decade ago has prompted reforms not only within the economies in the region but within the multilateral system as well.

Many criticized the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for acting too little and too late during the crisis. It was even censured for imposing traditional remedies to a different ailment, exacerbating the negative impact of the crisis on the growth of the afflicted economies.

Former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo said the IMF was nagged with questions on whether it had adequate resources to dispatch in the event of a similar crisis or whether it had sufficient leverage on non-borrowing countries to orchestrate the prevention of similar crises in such an extensive scale.

Recently, the IMF asserted its role as the guardian of global financial stability, commemorating the Asian crisis' 10-year anniversary by launching a new currency surveillance mechanism that aims to be an early warning device. It has also prepared a new emergency facility that will assist well-managed emerging economies in responding to future external crises by giving faster access to IMF financing, complementing the Chiang Mai initiative.

For the Philippines, this means about $4 billion in fresh buffer fund if and when a crisis strikes.

IMF resident representative to the Philippines Reza Baqir said the Fund has moved on and introduced many changes to its practices and that it would still be difficult to imagine a world without it.

Contrary to what some people think that it was caught flatfooted by the crisis, Baqir said the IMF had warned countries like Thailand about the very factors that led to the crisis a few years before the turmoil erupted. Once the crisis struck, the IMF moved quickly to provide large financial support at that time other investors had pulled out of the region, he said.

Baqir added that many of the policies backed by the IMF at the height of the crisis starting with the temporary tight monetary policy had proven to be appropriate and curbed the free fall of the Thai baht and the Korean won.

He noted that the Philippines had weathered the crisis better due to structural reforms supported by the IMF in the early 1990s, such as the creation of an independent central bank as well as strengthening of regulations on related lending, audit and real estate exposure.

Exports . . . From page B1

Electronics is the Philippines' major export earner, accounting for 62 percent of total earnings in May. Electronics exported by the Philippines are made up largely of intermediate materials used for the production of personal computers, iPODs, MP3 players and cellular phones.

Electronics exports reached $2.56 billion in May, rising by 11.8 percent from a year earlier. In April, electronics exports rose by only 1.2 percent year-on-year.

Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning at the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said the government was still sticking to the exports growth target of 11 percent for the year despite the lower-than-expected performance in the first five months.

Quoting the US-based Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), Arroyo said growth in global demand for electronics would be faster in the second half with the launching of new consumer electronics products and cellular phone models.

But Victor Abola, an economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific, said the 11-percent growth target for the year might be too optimistic.

Abola said the country was still expected to post a decent exports growth for this year, but only at around 7 percent.

Other top exports for May were articles of apparel and clothing accessories ($182.32 million), cathodes and sections of cathodes of refined copper ($133.52 million), woodcraft and furniture ($91.47 million), petroleum products ($85.97 million), coconut oil ($64.51 million), ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships ($56.92 million), metal components ($41.16 million), and gold ($36.10 million).

The United States accounted for $706.29 million of total Philippine exports in May. It was followed by Japan with $544.25 million and Hong Kong, $514.63 million.

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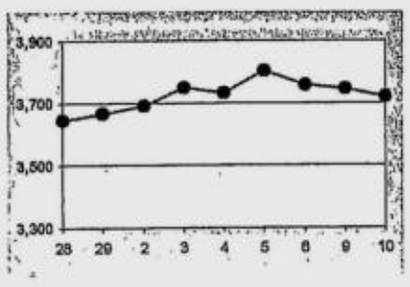
Stocks decline as investors raise cash for new IPOs

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.62-PERcent lower yesterday, with investors unloading blue chips for the third-straight session, dealers said.

They said geothermal power producer PNOC Energy Development Corp. was in demand, attracting interest following a secondary offering by its parent, state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC), which raised P17.1 billion in several block sales yesterday. *(See story on page B8)*

The composite index was down 23.09 points at the day's low of 3,720.96 on volume of 6.8 billion shares worth P22.6 billion.

There were 73 losers and 43 gainers, while 61 stocks were unchanged.



"Investors need cash for the upcoming IPOs, today being the last day for the payment of subscriptions to Aboitiz Power's IPO. Investors are also preparing for GMA Network's stock offer," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

Trading in the shares of fuel retailer Phoenix Petroleum Philippines was scheduled to begin today, and shares in Aboitiz Power Corp. are set to de- but on Monday.

Shares in broadcaster GMA are set to be listed on July 30.

PNOC-EDC, the most actively traded stock, jumped 70 centavos to P6.40.

The Philippine government intends to sell another 40-percent stake in PNOC-EDC within the year to raise revenue to help cover shortfalls in tax collection in the first half.

Among blue chips, market leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. or PLDT was down P15 at P2,660, while mall operator SM Prime Holdings fell 50 centavos to P12.50.

A-shares of San Miguel Corp. fell 50 centavos to P75 while B-shares were unchanged at P83. *AFP*

ePerformax OKs ₱172M in dividends

By Riza T. Olchondra

BPO EPERFORMAX CONTACT CENTERS Corp. will be distributing stock dividends worth P172 million to its stockholders, listed company Easycall said yesterday.

Easycall treasurer Carlo M. Severino said in a letter to the Philippine Stock Exchange that the company's board of directors agreed on Monday to distribute part of the company's profits through stock dividends.

Severino said the dividends would make up 100 percent of the contact center's unappropriated retained earnings as of end-December, or equivalent to P171.8 million.

Stockholders on record as of June 30 this year can avail themselves of the dividends.

Last year, Easycall earned P20 million in net income owing to the disposition of some of its assets. Easycall said that as a result of the upbeat performance of ePerformax, the company, through Transnational Diversified Corp., would be spending some $5 million to $6 million to put up a second site in Metro Manila for its contact center early next year.

The call center's facility is located at the BPI Buendia Center in Makati.

The first site of ePerformax has nine operational floors at BPI Buendia Center. It has a maximum capacity of 1,810 seats, more than 1,500 employees and about 250 trainees.

Easycall's principal activity is to provide information technology services. The company's other offers are focused on dial-up Internet access plans.

CURRENCIES

July 10, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.734160	1.000000	46.0340
Japan	Yen	0.005950	0.008104	0.3731
United Kingdom	Pound	1.479187	2.014800	92.7493
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.093922	0.127931	5.8892
Switzerland	Franc	0.603304	0.821760	37.8289
Canada	Dollar	0.699534	0.952835	43.8628
Singapore	Dollar	0.483223	0.658198	30.2995
Australia	Dollar	0.631101	0.859623	39.5719
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.947582	2.652801	122.1190
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.195765	0.266652	12.2751
Brunei	Dollar	0.481638	0.656039	30.2001
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000111	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.023307	0.031746	1.4614
UAE	Dirham	0.199891	0.272272	12.5338
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.362100	62.7029
Korea	Won	0.000797	0.001086	0.0500
China	Yuan**	0.096581	0.131553	6.0559
ArgentinaPeso	0.236444	0.322061	14.8258	
Brazil	Real	0.386604	0.526593	24.2412
Denmark	Kroner	0.134412	0.183083	8.4280
India	Rupee	0.018190	0.024777	1.1406
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213543	0.290867	13.3898
Mexico	New Peso	0.068234	0.092941	4.2784
New Zealand	Dollar	0.572802	0.780214	35.9164
Norway	Kroner	0.126185	0.171877	7.9122
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012156	0.016558	0.7622
South Africa	Rand	0.105721	0.144003	6.6290
Sweden	Kroner	0.108787	0.148179	6.8213
Syria	Pound	0.014143	0.019264	0.8868
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022376	0.030479	1.4031
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000342	0.000466	0.0215

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—July 9, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of July 9, 2007

Vista Land pushes property development to greater heights

The most innovative brands in local property have come together to change the face of the industry. Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., a newly incorporated property holding group, combines the strengths of Brittany Corporation, Camella Homes, Crown Asia, and Communities Philippines to make up what is now the largest homebuilder in the country.

Vista Land boasts of the collective track record of various properties covering the full spectrum of residential developments. It is now the first and only one offering a full range of products that fit every budget and every lifestyle in prime locations - Brittany Corp. for high-end, luxury developments; Crown Asia for stylish yet affordable developments; Camella for affordable developments; and Communities Philippines for developments outside Mega Manila.

Individually, each property brand has created a legacy in their respective fields fueled by the pioneering spirit that has come to set them apart from their competitors. Collectively, Vista Land equates to a formidable property investment whose value appreciates over time. Its name now stands for providing value for money, assurance of reliability, a broad range of choices for various wants and needs, and the promise of a more enriched way of life.

Moreover, this consolidation brings together under one roof the vast resources of four industry freethinkers. This resource - a veritable fountain of experience - speaks of decades of innovation that has time and again pushed the industry to greater heights.

Vista Land will be expanding its operations in the regions in a bid to double its geographic reach in the next two years. It also seeks to expand its role in inner city and vertical developments while enhancing existing projects by putting up community centers and establishing business process outsourcing in those projects.

Complementing its portfolio of developments, the company intends to expand into more leisure projects and other types of real estate development in the future.

What began in 1975 as an 80-lot development in Las Piñas now prides itself with over 100,000 homes built - raising the Filipino family's quality of living one home at a time. Whether it be a high-end property or an affordable residential development, Vista Land applies the same principle approach in fashioning what it has come to call its lifescapes - efficiently planned, architecturally sound masterplanned theme developments that are responsive and adaptable to the realities of its homeowners.

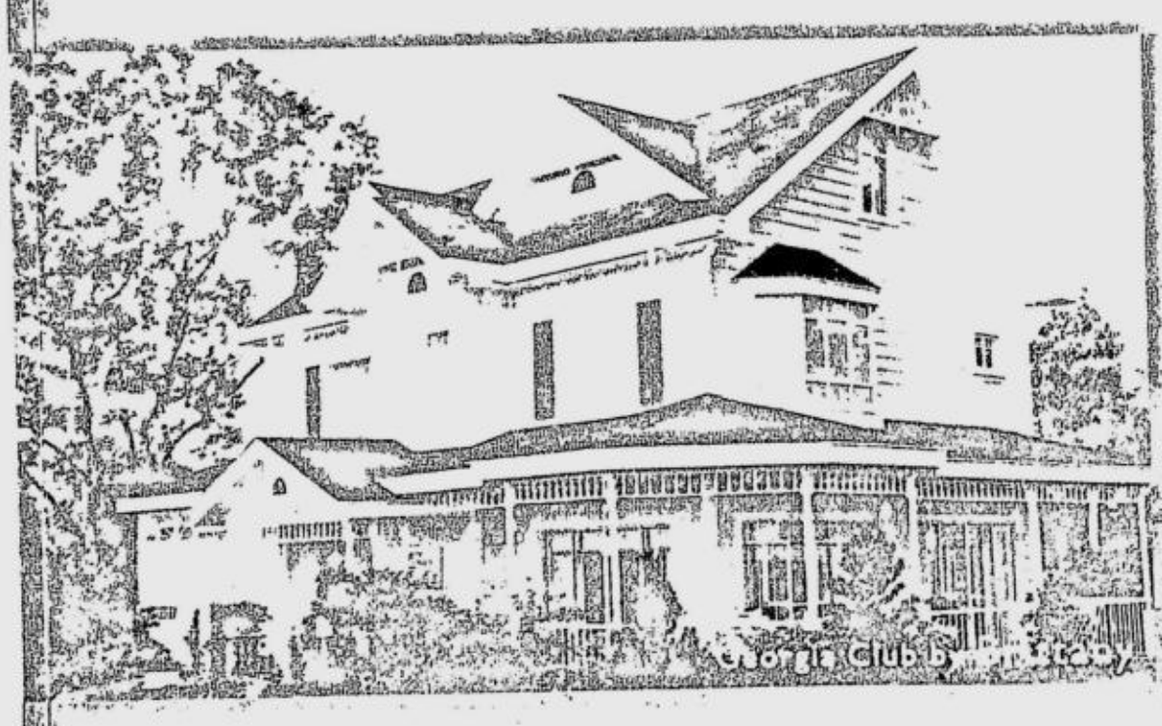
ADVT

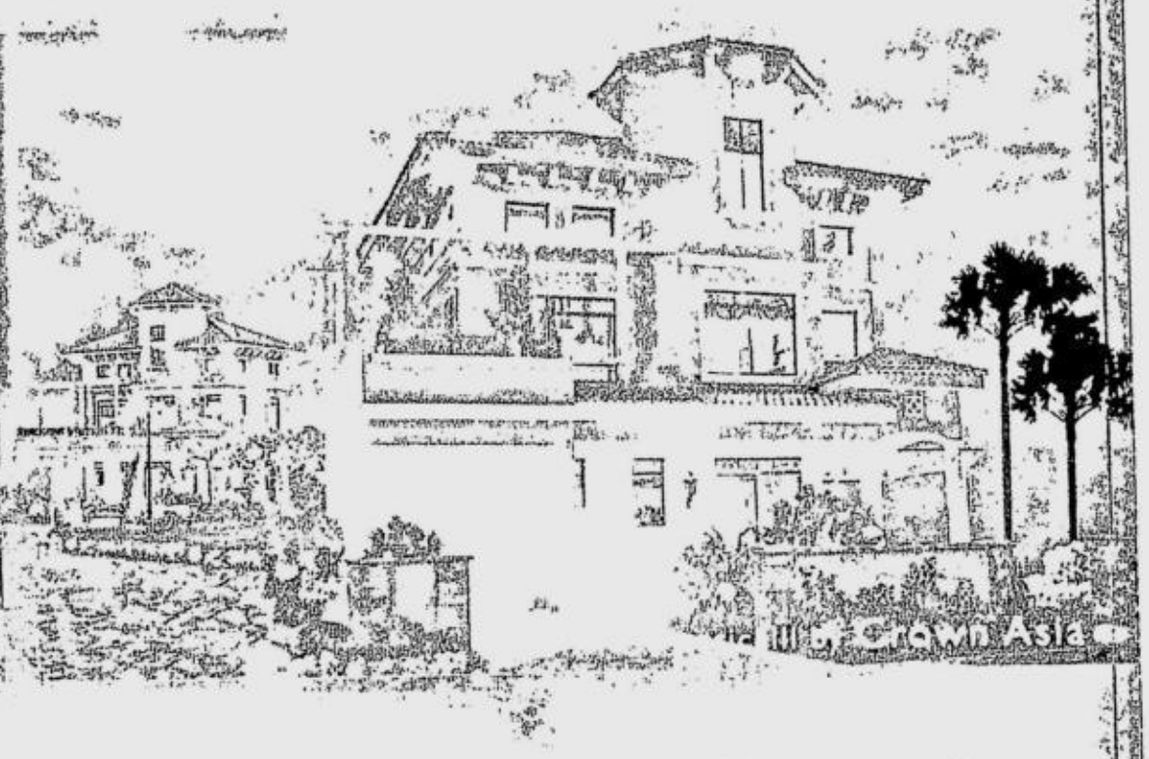
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 10, 2007)

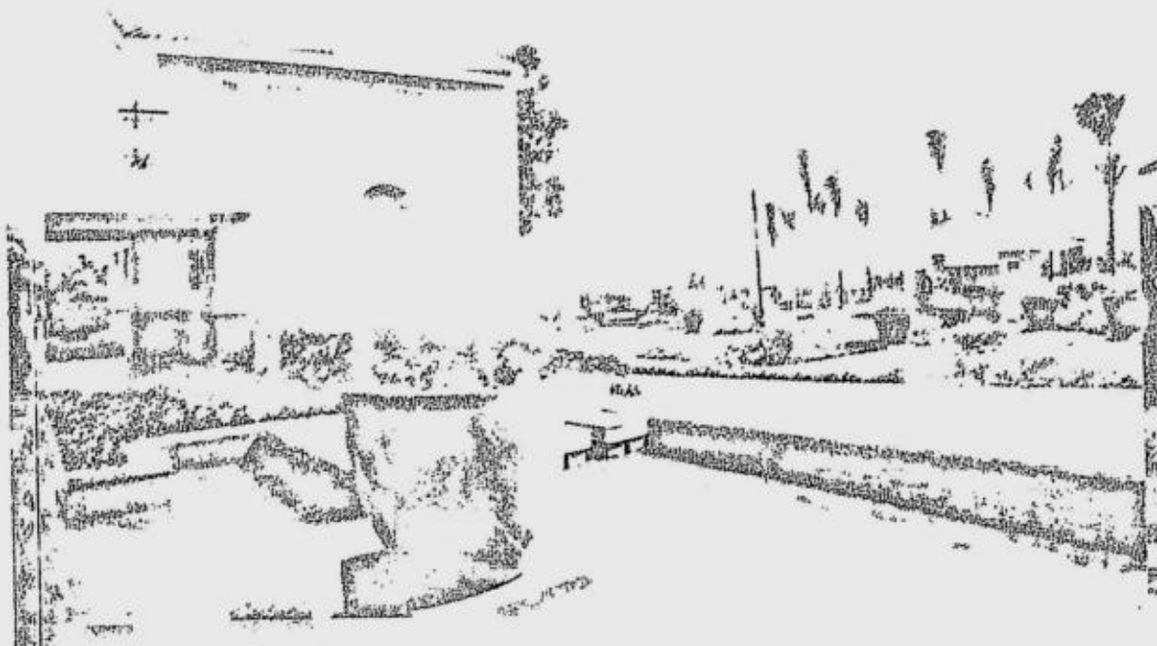
52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.2	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12	12	11.75	12	166,700
73	30.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	72	72	70	70	486,800
73.5	47.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	72.5	73	71	71	1,469,200
935	630	China Banking Corp.	910	910	910	910	13,320
40	19	Chinatrust Comm'l Banking Corp.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	3,000
20.25	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	1,840,000
75.5	34	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company	71.5	71.5	70.5	70.5	1,643,600
65	32.5	Philippine National Bank	64	64.5	63.5	64	330,900
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	64.5	64.5	63.5	63.5	1,200
39.57	14.13	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	34.5	34.5	33	33.5	2,923,200
90	44	Security Bank Corp.	87	89	86	87	387,400
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	62.5	63	62.5	62.5	313,200
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.72	ATR KimEng Financial Corp	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.1	913,000
1.5	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	263,000
16	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	15.5	16	14.5	14.75	3,355,000
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.24	611,000
1,710.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,670.00	1,670.00	1,670.00	1,670.00	70
5	4.05	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.4	4.4	4.25	4.3	10,536,000
3.1	0.99	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	43,000
1,005.00	211	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	815	825	815	820	6,030
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	2,180.00	240
1.94	1.2	Vantage Corp	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.82	1,050,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
68	41.5	First Gen Corp.	67	67.5	66.5	67.5	116,700
92	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	89.5	90	89.5	89.5	605,600
13.5	7.5	Manila Water Company Inc.	13.25	13.5	13	13.25	19,433,000
116	14.5	Manila Electric Company A	109	109	107	108	270,560
118	23.25	Manila Electric Company B	109	110	107	107	948,320
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	225,544,000
6	3.7	Petron Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.9	10,392,000
1.9	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp	1.62	1.66	1.6	1.6	5,745,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.8	440,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.34	2.34	2.24	2.24	28,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	25.5	25.5	12,500
61	30.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	56.5	57	56	56.5	472,600
1.9	0.77	RFM Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.66	1.7	3,000
4.05	2.2	Roxas Holdings	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	56,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. A	75.5	75.5	74	75	147,300
88	69.5	San Miguel Corp. B	82.5	83	82.5	83	236,900
0.61	0.2	Swift Foods Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	70,000
4.3	2	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	4,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	18	17.5	17.75	2,284,300
0.55	0.19	Vitarich Corp	0.42	0.47	0.41	0.45	2,300,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.43	EEI Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	608,000
4.6	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4,000
9.2	4.3	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.8	8	7.8	8	69,000
7	1.2	Republic Cement Corp.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	66,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.68	1.74	1.68	1.72	976,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.5	1,022,000
2.5	1.44	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	303,000
1.34	0.8	Interphil Laboratories Inc. A	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	64,000
1.4	0.61	Interphil Laboratories Inc. B	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	166,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.2	437,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
7.4	5.1	Panasonic Manufacturing Phils. Corp.	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	1,000
0.44	0.0625	Picop Resources Inc	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.35	6,170,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.74	A. Soriano Corp	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	521,000
0.17	0.023	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	83,170,000
1.28	0.18	APC Group Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.12	4,820,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. A	2.7	2.75	2.6	2.65	1,204,000
3.3	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. B	2.95	2.95	2.6	2.75	633,000
0.018	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
0.019	0.0065	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. B	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	72,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.6	8.7	14,114,000
0.021	0.007	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	156,100,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6	6.1	6	6	25,311,000
1.38	0.47	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	51,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.46	2.5	2.44	2.5	1,888,000
8	0.8	Aries Prime Resources Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	10,000
590	308.33	Ayala Corp.	570	570	565	570	111,730
14.5	6.96	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	14.5	14.5	13.5	13.5	10,100
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Hldg Co. Inc.	4.95	5.1	4.8	4.85	1,310,000
5.6	1.04	Benpres Holdings Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	14,599,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	9.7	10.25	9.7	9.7	7,149,000
2.02	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. A	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	30,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	481,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	85,000
14.5	5.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	2,300
0.8	0.185	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
0.95	0.13	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.69	0.69	440,000
11.5	0.26	Multitech Investments Corp.	8.9	9	8.4	8.9	6,879,000
30	0.88	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	23	24	22.5	24	1,638,300
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	4.9	4.95	4.7	4.8	1,321,000
0.0775	0.009	Pacifica Inc. A	0.0525	0.0775	0.0525	0.0775	1,036,400,000
0.75	0.16	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	500,000
452.5	200.44	SM Investments Corp.	450	450	440	440	77,590
2.2	0.71	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	1,000
0.73	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.54	0.55	0.53	0.53	11,010,000
1.06	0.51	Solid Group Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.87	240,000
1.6	0.78	South China Resources Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.4	201,000
0.75	0.085	Wellex Industries Inc	0.44	0.44	0.41	0.42	1,850,000
1.1	0.155	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.77	0.77	0.75	0.75	300,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.78	A Brown Company Inc.	1.62	1.68	1.62	1.68	230,000
1.06	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.78	0.78	860,000
19.25	9.58	Ayala Land Inc.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.5	27,773,600
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	2,084,000
4.7	2.06	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.45	4.4	4.4	767,000
2	1.2	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp.A	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	50,000
2.9	1	Cityland Development Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	10,000
0.86	0.26	Crown Equities Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.8	0.82	6,990,000
0.83	0.18	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	1,830,000
3.25	0.75	Edsa Properties Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	5,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.86	0.84	0.84	17,100,000
0.32	0.033	Ever Gotesco Res and Hold'gs Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,810,000
1.38	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.18	6,887,000
2.44	0.99	Filinvest Land Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.1	2.12	67,731,000
0.41	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc. A	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	1,200,000
0.42	0.07	Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.3	1,080,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.44	2,970,000
1.12	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.93	0.95	410,000
4.4	1.28	Megaworld Corp.	3.9	3.95	3.9	3.95	33,777,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.25	109,000
0.7	0.1	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.47	0.47	560,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.67	0.64	0.65	31,020,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	46,000
23	10.5	Robinson Land Corp.	20.5	20.5	20	20.25	4,328,300
5.7	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	435,000
13.25	5.92	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.75	13	12.5	12.5	10,079,900
1.34	0.51	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	600,000
0.36	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	6,850,000
7.4	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	6.5	6.6	6.3	6.6	2,391,000
		MEDIA					
35	15.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	34	35	34	34.5	379,500
1.14	0.98	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	4,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.16	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.58	1,296,000
1,445.00	900	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,395.00	1,400.00	1,380.00	1,385.00	76,960
2,820.00	1,790.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,650.00	2,665.00	2,650.00	2,660.00	130,850
7.9	3.2	Pilipino Telephone Corp	7.2	7.2	7	7.2	4,896,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	970,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	10	10.5	10	10	87,000
10	2	IPVG Corp.	9.4	10	9.3	9.9	8,022,000
0.065	0.0274	ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.047	20,200,000
26.5	5.5	Imperial Resources Inc. A	24.25	26.5	24.25	26	146,000
2.9	1.8	Ionics Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	259,000
0.185	0.04	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.145	0.16	67,890,000
2.08	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.7	1.78	1.7	1.7	133,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.0575	0.06	33,700,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc	3	3	2.9	3	1,179,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	13,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	230,000
32	13.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc	29	29.5	29	29.5	571,400
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	81,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	3.8	Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	53,000
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.7	3.7	644,000
6.6	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	5.7	6.6	5.7	6.6	55,000
4.55	2.8	Philippine Racing Club Inc.	4	4.2	4	4.2	142,000
0.98	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Prod'n Inc	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	500,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.92	300,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	10,000
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc	3.25	3.3	3.2	3.3	319,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
5.9	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	5.2	5.7	5.2	5.5	6,508,000
17.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp	15.5	15.5	15	15.5	209,400
30	9.9	Paxys Inc	23.25	23.25	23	23.25	87,800
		MINING					
0.018	0.0075	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	167,300,000
7.6	3	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	250,000
7.7	3	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	400,000
21.25	7.4	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	16.5	16.5	16	16.25	2,926,800
5	1.7	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	58,000
3.05	0.0713	GEOGRACE Res Philippines Inc.	2.8	2.85	2.75	2.8	23,833,000
0.35	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	61,580,000
0.42	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	6,920,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.032	391,700,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.034	155,400,000
0.024	0.008	Omico Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	335,900,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	9,196,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	41	43	41	41.5	556,400
1.36	0.35	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.99	1.04	0.99	1.02	3,460,000
1.8	0.52	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.36	1.38	1.34	1.38	5,688,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp	0.49	0.52	0.47	0.49	33,220,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	52,100,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	50,100,000
14.25	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	11.5	11.5	11	11	894,900
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	316,500,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK





UNMATCHED VISTAS



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Brittany Corporation, acknowledged as the most innovative compared to four other leading high-end real estate developers in a study conducted by PSRC Research International in 2006.

Crown Asia, voted by the readers of Reader's Digest as one of the most trusted brands in the Philippine Property Sector for years 2006 and 2007.

Camella Homes and Communities: the most preferred brand among the B&C socio-economic class in a study by PSRC Research International.

Communities Philippines: the expert in turning the countryside into a landscape of sought-after communities.

Location, location and quality. Vista Land developments are simply, unmatched.

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NAVY CAPT. MANUEL STO. DOMINGO LEDESMA

(PMA CLASS 1957)

of Quezon City

joined his Creator on July 10, 2007 at the age of 73.

His bereaved wife, **Minda De Jesus Ledesma**; children & children-in-law **Glenda & Jun, Cedrick & Jing, Marvin & Monique**; grandchildren **Ernest, Mikaela, Elise, Marinela, Paolo, Marga, Marcus**; brothers & sisters-in-law **Ricardo & Ling, Edgardo & Cora**; sisters & brothers-in-law, **Teresa (†) & Samy, Violeta & Johnny**; uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Ignatius Cathedral, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C. There will be a Necrological Service on Saturday, July 14, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. Cremation will be on Sunday, July 15, 2007 at 9:00 a.m., Loyola Memorial Park, Crematory, Marikina City.

Together with St. Paul, she can truly say:
"I have done my best in the race,
I have run the full distance, and
I have kept the faith. And now
there is waiting for me the victory prize
of being put right with God ..."
2 Timothy 4:7 – 8

SERAFINA YLAGAN PUENTE

(July 28, 1913 – July 8, 2007)
Peacefully joined her Creator on July 8, 2007 at the age of 93.

Her bereaved husband, **Alfonso, Sr. (†)**; children and in-laws **Josie & Elong, Junior & Linda (†), Evelyn, Petita & George, Didi & Tony, Lody & Ramon, Tony & Marixie, Tito & Judith, Rody & Emy, Mely, Poly & Val**; grandchildren and great grandchildren and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Capilla San Aemiliani, Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo cor. Mercedes Ave., Pasig City.

Interment will be on July 12, 2007 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 1:00 PM Mass at Holy Trinity Parish, Village East Executive Homes, Cainta, Rizal.

Death Notice

ROGELIO "Daddy Ogie" BUENAVISTA BORLAZA

peacefully joined our Lord on July 8, 2007 at the age of 63.

His remains lie in state at No. 073 A. Mabini St., Liliw, Laguna.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 15, 2007, 2pm at Liliw Municipal Cemetery after the mass at St. John the Baptist Church, Liliw, Laguna.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

SEGUNDO VALTE INFANTADO, JR.

September 10, 1926 – July 4, 2007

wish to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who condoled with us in our time of sorrow with their presence, prayers, messages of sympathy; those who sent flowers and who in countless ways helped us.

Your expression of love and concern continue to comfort and console us.

Lily and Corinna Infantado

ALICIA S. PALAROAN

peacefully joined her Creator on July 9, 2007.

Her loving children **VIRGILIO & NELIA, MARIANO, ALICE & HECTOR, MEDEN & ROGER, MERLE, JAIME & LOURDES**, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington East, Pasig City and will be brought to Funeraria Imperial, Naga City on July 12, 2007.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 15, 2007 at Sto. Niño Memorial Park, Naga City.

CARMELITA R. LANSANG

*peacefully joined our Lord and her parents **Jose & Rufina Lansang** on July 08, 2007 at Quezon City.*

Her brothers, sisters and in-laws **Flora & Biding, Guy, Eda & Manoling (†), Bert & Rita, Susan, Kelly & Jules, Jun & Chona, Lito & Mary Ann (†), Baby, Noel & Carmi**, Auntie **Luding**, nephews, nieces, cousins & other relatives & friends request the pious readers to join them in prayers for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapel, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on July 12, 2007 at San Juan Cemetery after the 8:00 AM Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

ZAMBOANGA CITY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this city, per Board Policy on Pre-qualification, and Bids and Awards, invites all interested bidders/suppliers to apply for pre-qualification/eligibility and to bid for the following items to wit:

1) **81 units CURRENT TRANSFORMER** 15KV, Multi Ratio CTR 10-15-20/5, Made in Germany, with Sealing Provision for Outdoor used type GIFK-24-105. Approved Budget Cost – P49,000.00/unit
2) **81 units POTENTIAL TRANSFORMER** 15KV, PTR 8,400/120 Made in Germany, with sealing provision, Single Bushing for outdoor used type VEF 24-03. Approved Budget Cost – P48,000.00
3) **6 units Current Transformer (CT) Primary**, Multi ratio @400-300-200/5 amps.; Made in Germany, for outdoor used type, GIFK24-105 Approved Budget Cost – P49,000.00/unit
4) **6 units Potential Transformer (PT) Primary** BIL 95KV, Rated Voltage 15KV, PTR 8400/120; Made in Germany, Double Bushing for outdoor used type VZF24-03. Approved Budget Cost – P48,000.00/unit

(Note: Financing Scheme of not less than 12 months or one year)

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department at ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than **5:00 PM of July 12, 2007** and no documents appertaining thereto, shall be accepted thereafter.

All applicants will be duly notified of the results of the pre-qualification/eligibility process. Only those who are qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding, upon payment of **non-refundable bidding fee of P5,000.00.**

Bidding will be conducted on July 19, 2007.

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before **2:00 PM of July 19, 2007. Five (5%) percent Bidder's Bond** (in the form of cash, cashier's/manager's/certified check, surety bond or bank guarantee/LC) is required as a matter of coop policy.

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop, is hereby, reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) **REINERIO R. RAMOS**
General Manager

(PDI–July 10 & 11, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of Sinacaban
Province of Misamis Occidental

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: July 11, 2007
Contract ID No.: **SP-133-IN-01**
World Bank Loan No: **4446PH**

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the ***Construction of Sinacaban Water System Level III***. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The ***Municipality of Sinacaban, Province of Misamis Occidental*** invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the ***Construction/Development of Production Wells and its Facilities, Construction of 1 - Reinforced Concrete Ground Reservoir, Installation of Power Transmission Lines, Installation of Transmission/ Distribution Water Pipelines and Level III Metered Water Connections.***
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***July 11, 2007 at the Municipal Engineering Office/ BAC Secretariat, Sinacaban Municipal Hall, Sinacaban, Misamis Occidental*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)*** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ***ninety (90)*** days after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of ***Four Hundred Sixty Six Thousand Pesos (Php 466,000.00)*** in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee issued by commercial banks or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the ***SB Session Hall, Sinacaban, Misamis Occidental*** on or before ***August 14, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post qualification. The **Estimated Project Cost** for the subproject is ***Eighteen Million Six Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Sixty Three Pesos and 60/100 (Php 18,658,063.60).***
6. A pre-bid conference will be held at ***10:00 a.m. on August 1, 2007 at SB Session Hall, Municipality of Sinacaban, Misamis Occidental.***

(Sgd.) **LALAINE C. TAN**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--July 11, 2007)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/ Brief Description	One (1) year contract for the janitorial and sanitation services at the BSP La Union Regional Office, per BSP special terms and conditions
Approved Budget for the Contract	P 2,317,874.40
Contract Period	One (1) year contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed within the last five (5) years (Y2002 to present) amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 11 July 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	23 July 2007, 2:00 p.m.
3. Opening of Bids	7 August 2007, 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,160.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI--July 11, 2007)

CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Tel. No. (075) 532-2222 / 532-3146

INVITATION TO BID

The **Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, Inc.** (CENPELCO) with office address at Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan invites all qualified bidders for the supply and delivery of the following electrical materials and equipments:

ITEM No.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1	Duplex Wire #6	200,000 m
2	Electronic KWH Meter, 10(60) A	3,500 units
3	Electronic KWH Meter, Class 100	200 units
4	Electronic KWH Meter, Class 200	100 units
5	Electronic KWH Meter, Class 20	25 units
6	Electronic KWH Meter, Class 10	15 units

All interested parties shall submit Letter of Intent together with their latest company profile and secure bid documents re: Technical specifications and features to PBAC secretariat starting July 16, 2007. Submission of sealed bid will be on July 31, 2007 (Tuesday) at 2:00 p.m. (1400 hrs) at CENPELCO main office, Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representative.

Request further to include in your sealed bid/proposal the **delivery date, terms of payment, availability of stock, complete specifications** and other information for evaluation purposes. Bid for one or two items only is acceptable. Please submit BID BOND equivalent to two and one-half percent (2½%) of the total bid price if it is a cash or manager's check or if it is a surety bond it must be equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. Bid bond less than the required amount will be automatically disqualified. Bids/proposals submitted beyond the specified date and time will not be accepted.

CENPELCO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPTS THE BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO F. CORPUZ**
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. EDGARDO R. PIAMONTE**
Executive Officer/Project Supervisor

(PDI - July 11 & 14, 2007)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5388

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Purchase of Human Machine Interface Software and Plant Historian Software under GT 705062 & GT 705063
Approved Budget: PHP 5,603,500.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Ms. Diana Lejano** starting July 10, 2007, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 2,000.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **July 17, 2007, 10:00 a.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department, 1/F Building 5 at the above address not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock time) of August 1, 2007.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

BAC Chairman

(PDI - July 11, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

HOI YUET SHIPPING CO., LTD.'s ORIGINAL B/L NO. HY070928 WAS LOST IN TRANSIT. B/L NO. HY070928 IS DECLARED CANCELLED AND BLANK OUT. B/L CONSIGNEE: JSN LABORATORIES, INC.

(PDI - July 11, 2007)

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How's Your English?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

(Second of two parts)

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF HAND-WRINGing and soul-searching over the pitiful quality of graduates from our public high schools. The main criticism is: They cannot speak or write good English.

Why should this surprise anybody? Before World War II, English was the medium of instruction in all levels of our public and private schools. I do not remember any complaints then.

After the war, the system began to unravel. First, every student had to learn Filipino (Tagalog, really). As a Bicolano, I had to grapple with two foreign languages, Tagalog and English.

What made matters worse, the Institute of National Language invented an artificial language. The Institute purged Tagalog of Spanish words that had crept into the language during the long Castilian era.

For example, *silla* (chair) became *salungpuwit*, and later *upuan*. What the Institute forgot was that no language was pure. You only have to browse through a few pages of an English dictionary to bump into foreign words.

Aside from burdening the high school student with Tagalog, English was no longer taught as before. The teaching medium in the grade schools was no longer English, but the local vernacular.

Also, I suspect that some self-appointed nationalists considered English as a tool of the American colonizers for subjugating their poor uneducated brown brothers.

But now, the tide is turning.

QUESTIONS / B8

Banks ...

From page B10

sures last May 10.

Monetary authorities are hoping that the growth in money supply, which grew by 21 percent in May from a year ago, would slow down to below 20 percent by the end of the year.

But some analysts said the increase in interest rate on government securities was rooted on concerns over the widening budget deficit.

The government's fiscal performance as of June gave banks enough reason to seek higher risk premium, they said.

In the first half of the year, the government's budget deficit was said to have reached P37.7 billion, breaching the P31.3-billion ceiling set for the period.

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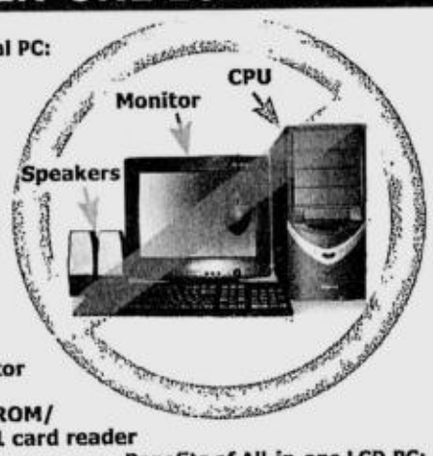

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World today celebrates 7-Eleven day

Celebrations in Philippines marked by Corporate Social Responsibility and promotional activities

The Philippines joins 16 other countries worldwide as 32,208 7-Eleven convenience stores celebrate the special date of July 11, now officially known as 7-Eleven day.

Receiving the award from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is PSC President Victor Paterno (right). Also in photo are from (L-R) Samie Lim, PFA Chairman Emeritus and President of Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry; PFA President Robert Trota and PFA Chair Alegria Sibal-Limjoco.

The world-renowned convenience chain, whose brand logo is recognized as the global standard in the convenience store business, will simultaneously embark on celebration activities to commemorate and communicate the significance of 7-Eleven day to its valued consumers.

In Chicago-United States, 7-Eleven stores in the city banded together to offer a special day at the zoo via a special voucher available only at the said stores. Family members get to enjoy a day of bonding with nature and animals, even as they enjoy sipping on their free 12-ounce Slurpee. Other countries opted to offer their customers various freebies and discounts available only on July 11.

Philippine Seven Corporation, Philippine licensee of 7-Eleven, will spearhead the celebrations in the country by continuing its meaningful Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) mission launched during last year's 7-Eleven day.

"The significance of 7-Eleven day to us extends beyond giving special discounts, freebies and more value to our customers. We really want do our share in giving back to the communities that have supported our business throughout our 25 years," stated Jose Victor Paterno, PSC President. "And thus we will continue our effort in helping out Gawad Kalinga who is tirelessly assisting our less fortunate brothers and sisters by providing them with shelter," he added.

Paterno revealed that last year, 7-Eleven embarked on various activities such as tree planting, house painting and street sweeping in the Gawad Kalinga Village in Baseco compound. The 160-strong 7-Eleven team also provided free meals, drinks and desserts to the families in the said area, as well as engaging kids and adults in various fun activities throughout the day.

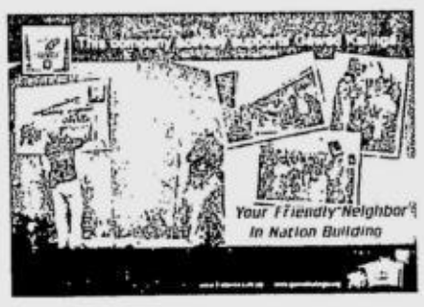
This year, 7-Eleven will once again join hands with the crusading Gawad Kalinga in its new community project in Pinagsama, Taguig City.

Aside from its CSR efforts, 7-Eleven will continue its in-store value promotions, which includes the current "Cool Drink, Cooler Gadgets" promo, a text-based raffle that will allow customers to win 4GB MP3 players daily, 29 inch Ultra Slimfit TV weekly and 32 inch Slimfit TV with home theater system on the grand draw, when they buy selected Gulp, Slurpee and Pepsi packaged products.

Another promo is the "Great deal baon Rice Meal Combo" wherein shoppers can get to avail of a rice-in-a-box, drink and chocolate bar dessert for only P39 pesos. Loyal patrons will also get to enjoy various discounts and bundled products on the shelves throughout the month of July.

"We want to make this year's 7-Eleven day extra special, since it also coincides with our celebration of PSC's 25th year here in the Philippines, which will happen on November 24, 2007," stated Paterno. "So aside from our current CSR, promotional and franchising efforts, we will have lots more in store for our loyal customers in the coming months leading up to our anniversary," he added.

Besides being known as the country's leading convenience store chain where popular brand name products can easily be found, 7-Eleven is also hard at work in marketing its own proprietary brands to boost the popularity of its consumer-favorites Slurpee, Gulp, Hotdog and Siopao. New inclusions into the company's product line up include the Rice meals, Pasta, Sandwiches, Stuffed Pandesal and Hot Beverages.



Franchisees join together in celebrating 7-Eleven day

130 local franchisees of the world-renowned 7-Eleven convenience store recently joined hands with the 162 company-owned stores to boost efforts in the celebration of the company's very own red-letter day.

The date, which has been officially dubbed as 7-Eleven day, was welcomed by the Philippine Seven Corporation's partners in business as a newest milestone to the company's unflagging success.

"Today's holiday for us is not like other holidays in which people get to rest. On this day, we will be working doubly hard to provide our loyal consumers with the best in products and service that they have known to love," stated Joseph Pascual, franchisee of 7-Eleven Emerald and Pacific Centre.

Pascual, along with the other franchisees of 7-Eleven, vowed to provide greater push for their in-store promotions.

The company noted that the combined 292 company-owned and franchised stores have extended the reach of 7-Eleven from Metro Manila to 7 provinces in North Luzon and 4 in South Luzon.

This means that an even greater number of Filipinos can get to avail of the exciting discounts and promos that will be offered by 7-Eleven today and throughout the year.

"On this 7-Eleven day, we celebrate not only a significant calendar date but also the continued growth of our franchise partners," stated Jose Victor Paterno, PSC President. "And as more and more partners become part of our family, the world-class strength and success of 7-Eleven in the country will truly be showcased as the finest example of the Filipino entrepreneurial spirit," he added.

Paterno also revealed that the efforts of PSC and 7-Eleven have also borne fruit since the company was also recognized as the "International Master Franchise Awardee for 2006" in the annual Franchise Excellence Awards event jointly organized by the Philippine Franchise Association, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Philippine Retailers Association.

"This award re-affirms our commitment in providing excellence in Franchising, transforming our brand into the benchmark in successful convenience retailing, as well as providing another notch in the 25 years of success of 7-Eleven in the Philippines," said Paterno.

Paterno also attributed the tremendous growth and success of the company's franchise business to the company's aggressive franchising and expansion efforts for 2007, which included the introduction of four franchising options that have attracted the investment of local entrepreneurs and OFWs.

Aside from the new store franchise, businessmen can also opt to acquire a company-owned store with the franchise conversion system; convert their own existing property or business into a 7-Eleven franchise through the property conversion system; or obtain the rights to operate an existing store via the Service agreement option.

The company is also hard at work in providing more innovations and improvements to its franchising system, which includes a centralized distribution system capable of servicing over 500 stores; feedback support and communication systems between the company and franchisees; and streamlining, promotional and back-end support for store operations.

Paterno also revealed that PSC has opened up more areas for franchising in other areas of Metro Manila and the provinces, including La Union, Baguio, Olongapo, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon and Cavite.

For franchising inquiries, call (02) 726-9968, (0920) 950-8651, email franchising@7-eleven.com.ph or visit www.7-eleven.com.ph.

ADVT

Questions of Policies

From page B7

Representatives Tupas and Villafuerte, among others in Congress, want to put back English as the teaching medium in public schools.

Do not expect any quick fix. As I said last week, English is a very difficult language to master. Learning to speak good English is hard enough. Learning to write good English is even much harder. And when you do master the language, you have to endlessly practice it, or you will lose your edge.

What level of English proficiency should we expect from a high school graduate, anyway? If he can strike a conversation in street lingo, or a mixture of Tagalog and English, or Taglish, that should be enough. I once watched a pearl diver in Jolo being interviewed in English over CNN. Where else but in the Philippines?

It is at the college level where English should be mastered. A holder of a college diploma should know when to split an infinitive or when to use the past participle.

I am not prepared to accept that the present crop of college graduates is worse than a generation ago. In the mid-1950s, the Insular Life-FGU Insurance Group, where I was employed in the Training & Planning Department, ran an ad in the papers soliciting applications for 10 executive trainees. Over 1,000 applied. This is about the same hiring ratio at the call centers today.

In the professions, English proficiency goes up into even higher levels. Every profession has its distinct lingo. Medical doctors use a language all their own. I can write a column on insurance in technical lingo that only fellow insurance professionals will understand. But I will lose my readership. Ph.D.s write in a style that only fellow Ph.D.s will appreciate. I suspect lawyers use legalese in order to raise their fees.

I am absolutely confident that the wise English-speaking and -writing Justices of the Supreme Court will unanimously turn down Wika's petition. The decision will be written in perfect legalese.

Gov't finalizes sale of stake in geothermal company

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT moved a step closer to funding its budget shortfall this year as it finalized the sale of its stake in PNOC-Energy Development Corp (PNOC-EDC).

In a statement to the stock exchange, the geothermal power producer said the sale would generate for the government at least P17.1 billion, which has already been earmarked to compensate for the poor tax collection of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

A total of three billion shares will be sold at P5.70 apiece, which is the stock's closing price last Friday.

"Upon the completion of this transaction, [the Philippine National Oil Co.'s] total outstanding share ownership in EDC will be reduced from 60 percent to 47 percent," the company's corporate information officer Rowena C. Clemente told the exchange yesterday.

"This transaction will be crossed through the PSE after approval for a regular block sale is obtained," she added.

The company earlier said that it was aiming to complete the sale to up to three institutional buyers by the end of this week.

CLSA Limited was chosen as the underwriter for the secondary offer, the company said.

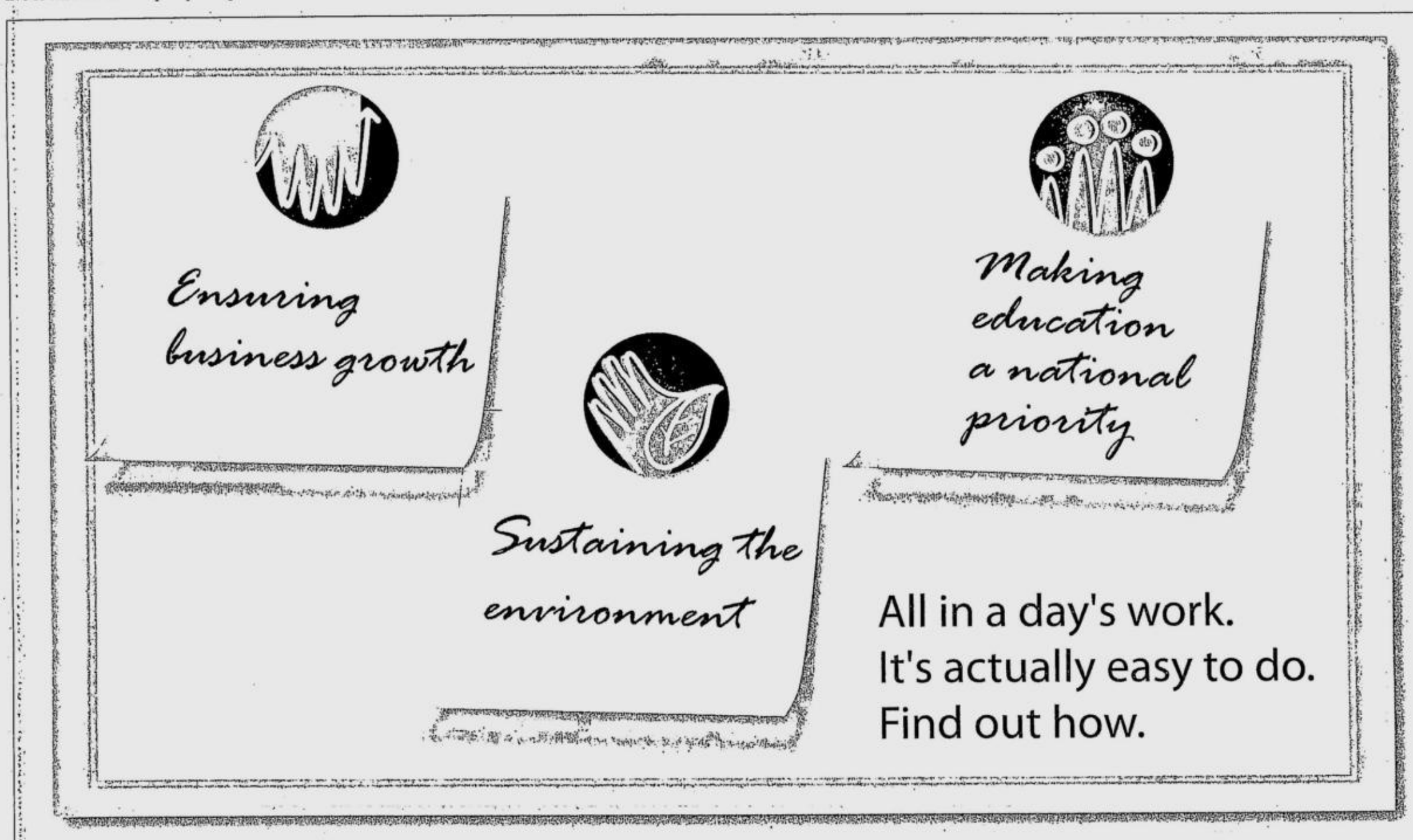
Trading of PNOC-EDC's shares was suspended last Monday pending additional information from the company about the sale.

Yesterday, the company asked the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) to lift its trading halt on the stock.

Its price then rose by 12.3 percent, ending the trading session at P6.40 per share.

The money from the sale will be used to meet the full-year budget deficit target of P63 billion after successive failures by the BIR forced the government to rely on privatization proceeds.

The government has already announced plans to sell its remaining stake in the geothermal power producer together with its holdings in the Manila Electric Co. and San Miguel Corp. this year.



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PLENARY SESSIONS

- KEYNOTE ADDRESS - *H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*, President of the Republic of the Philippines
- STRATEGIC CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - *Manuel Pangilinan*, Chairman, PLDT with *Cesar Bautista*, Co-Chair, National Competitive Council and Ambassador to the UK; and *Edgar Chua*, Country Chairman, Shell companies in the Philippines
- A CEO'S PERSPECTIVE: CREATING A CORPORATE SOCIAL VISION - *Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II*, Chairman and CEO, Ayala Corporation
- INVESTING IN EDUCATION - *Dr. Christopher Thomas*, Sector Manager for Education in the East Asia and Pacific Region, The World Bank
- THE NEED FOR MORE EDUCATION CHAMPIONS - *Sec. Jesli Lapus*, Department of Education
- THE PHILIPPINE CSR REPORT 2007 - *Marilou Erni*, LCF President and Executive Director, Petron Foundation
- STATE OF THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT - *Elisea Gozun*, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Champion tof the Earth 2007 for Asia-Pacific
- LAUNCHING OF THE CSR INSTITUTE - A FLAGSHIP PROGRAM OF LCF
- SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING: THE GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE MODEL - *Ralph Andreas Thurm*, Chief Operating Officer, Global Reporting Initiative, Amsterdam
- GLOBAL TRENDS IN CSR AND PHILANTHROPY: CREATING SHARED VALUES - *Terry Farris*, Head of Philanthropy Services, UBS Asia-Pacific; *Kandy Anand*, Division President, Coca-Cola Far East; *Rufino dela Rosa*, President, Chowking Business Unit (Jollibee Group)
- THE SOCIAL AGENDA IDENTIFIED: 57-75 CAMPAIGN - *Mario Deriquito*, Head, Task Force 57-75 and CSD Director, Ayala Foundation
- AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH: CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE PHILIPPINES - *Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan*, President, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines with *Paul Aquino*, President and CEO, PNOC Energy Development Corporation and *Sec. Raphael Lotilla*, Department of Energy

***and many more*

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NFA taps private sector to stabilize grain prices

By Amy R. Remo

THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS BEEN tapped to aid the National Food Authority in its grain distribution scheme to ensure the stability of rice prices and supply.

NFA Administrator Jessup P. Navarro said the private sector has been assisting the agency through its "indirect intervention" program, which include the auction sale of imported rice and the Institutionalized Farmers as Distributors program.

These programs are meant to ease supply problems expected in the lean months of July to September and prevent any rice shortages and unwarranted price increases.

Under the NFA's indirect intervention program, the private sector may resell NFA stock at prevailing commercial prices.

Under the auction scheme, a limited volume of imported quality rice is sold through a public sale to interested licensed grain traders.

The Ifad program operates in the same manner, allowing farmer organizations and cooperatives to buy imported rice either for commercial reselling or personal use.

Navarro said Ifad aims to develop the entrepreneurial skills and marketing potentials of farmers.

Eighteen farm organizations in Occidental Mindoro recently sold 57,141 bags of imported rice allocated to them under the Ifad. The farmers generated some P3 million in the process.

The volume allocation under Ifad is prorated per region.

Seventy percent of the allowed volume for a region would be based on its harvested *palay* with reference to the national harvested area in the last two years.

The 30-percent balance would be based on the NFA's regional *palay* procurement in relation to total *palay* production during the same period.

The NFA will also make use of local rice varieties and make these available for reselling, if necessary, to assure stable supply.

However, Navarro said, only NFA-accredited farm organizations and cooperatives, as well as holders of NFA master passbook, are qualified to participate in the Ifad.

DA plans to put up food terminals in ecozones

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE is putting up barangay food terminals this year in four of the country's economic zones.

The plan, which is in line with the department's advocacy to widen the people's access to basic food items, is expected to benefit some 35,000 workers.

Food terminals are going to be put up at the First Cavite Industrial Estate, Clark Special Economic Zone, Cavite Export Processing Zone and the Laguna Technopark, according to agriculture officials.

For 2007, the DA is targeting a total of two million beneficiaries from the 42 terminals it would be setting up in various parts of the country.

Food terminals were established to directly link farm producers to wet markets, thus eliminating unnecessary trading layers that tend to jack up prices of agricultural produce and cut the actual profit of small farmers and fisherfolk.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said the 14 operational food terminals located in Quezon City, Manila, Taguig, Pasay, Caloocan, Navotas and Bulacan benefit more than 343,000 families.

These families, he said, now have access to basic food items like rice, fish and meat, which are sold 10 percent cheaper than those retailed at regular outlets.

The DA yesterday opened another consumer-friendly food terminal in Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

"The DA has been putting up these BFTs in sync with its five-point program for Philippine agriculture," Yap said.

The program, he said, "is designed to provide consumers with cheaper but good quality farm and fishery products."

Yap added that the DA plans to set up nine terminals in Metro Manila by December this year to add to the existing 11 food terminals in the capital region.

The additional terminals are expected to benefit some 495,000 families.

"All our efforts to increase production of farm and fishery products would be useless if food prices remain high and unaffordable, and farmers and fishers do not earn enough profits from their labor," he said.

Regional terminals are also lined up in 28 areas across the country, and are expected to benefit 61,144 families or more than 300,000 people.

Food terminals are partly funded by the Japan Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers, also known as the 2KR (Kennedy Round) grant, which is meant to benefit Filipino farmers living below the poverty line. *Amy R. Remo*

RP spared from full . . .

From page B2

their balance.

On hindsight, Tetangco says that the 1997 crisis—while having been critical—was less severe than the debt moratorium crisis that the country experienced in the early 1980s.

"In 1997, our reserves were merely declining," he said. "But in the 1980s, we had virtually no reserves."

The experience of the 1980s also proved to be useful a decade later, since prudential standards were imposed on the financial system that prevented banks from overextending themselves to particular businesses like the property sector. In Thailand and Indonesia, lack of similar limits pushed even the biggest financial institutions into bankruptcy.

Nonetheless, Tetangco does not downplay the severity of the 1997 crisis.

Defend or devalue

Knowing the adverse impact of sudden currency devaluations on the private sector a decade ago, Asian central banks at first tried to intervene to defend their respective currencies, but found it futile at the end of the day.

Thailand—where the turmoil started—allowed the baht to depreciate in the first week of July, followed by the Philippines and Indonesia on July 11, 1997.

Gabriel Singson, who was governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas at that time, remembers how the turmoil spilled over to the country.

He recalls that that the local monetary authority was already a net seller of dollars when the crisis erupted. With dollar reserves thinning, a decision was made to devalue the local currency.

The biggest dilemma was the extent of monetary tightening needed to quell speculative attacks against the currency. At that time, the BSP took the bitter pill of raising its overnight borrowing rates to as high as 32 percent to attract banks back to peso assets.

At the time the BSP resorted to tightening measures, the local currency stabilized at 29 to $1. But when the currency started to depreciate again to close to 40 to a dollar in December 1997—on thin volumes—Singson had to seek the help of the banking community in providing foreign exchange liquidity.

US dollar supply had turned scarce then. Dollar earners were delaying the conversion of their greenback in anticipation of better rates, while enterprises in need of foreign exchange whether for importation or debt servicing were advancing their requirements.

Crisis of confidence

Meanwhile, things were much worse at the equities market where investors' massive losses virtually snuffed out the government's vision of transforming the country into a tiger economy by 2000.

The local market had to contend with its own fears of a local property glut and declining corporate income. The plunge in share prices of property giants Empire East Land Holdings Inc. and Megaworld Properties and Holdings Inc. at that time created more panic, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) said in its 1997 annual review.

It didn't help either that another company, Victorias Milling Corp., was in the middle of financial woes, which drove investors away from banking stocks that had significant exposures to the firm and others like it.

It was no surprise therefore that after hitting record highs early in 1997, the PSE index tumbled 41 percent to 1,869.23. Market capitalization, which had enjoyed six years of continuous growth, fell back under the weight of the Asian contagion, wiping out an average 41 percent of the value of listed firms at the end of 1997 from end-1996 levels.

Then PSE chair Wilson Sy remembers 1997 with a mix of cheerful and grim thoughts, saying that the stock market actually kicked off to new highs early in the year.

"As PSE chair [in 1997], I remember the day that we had champagne toasting on the trading floor because we reached new highs for the PSE index and PSE volume [of shares traded]," he recalls. "It was all downhill after that celebration, culminating in the Thailand crisis and the Asian contagion."

"It was the worst bear market in stock market history with most Philippine stocks losing 90 percent of their value and many listed companies becoming illiquid, if not insolvent, afterwards," Sy says.

As humbling as 1997 was for many investors and companies, however, the worst was yet to come. *(To be continued)*

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Customs District XIII
Port of Subic
SBFZ, Olongapo City

July 2, 2007

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provision for Section 2601 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, in correlation with CAO 5-90 as implemented by CMO 5-2003 dated 17 March 2003, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION (sealed bidding) on July 18, 2007 (Wednesday) from 2:30 P.M. until terminated at Bldg. 303, Customs Clearance Area, Kalaklan Gate, Port of Subic, of the hereunder listed lots. For further inquiry/particulars, please call the office of the District Collector at tel.no. (047) 252-3534 or the Office of the Auction and Cargo Disposal Unit with tel. no. (047) 252-4696.

Sale Lot No. 13-07
S.S.I. No. 2007-03
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new AUDI A8L Passenger Car 2006 WAUML44E16NO118196
"AS IS WHERE IS"
"Proceeds to be held in trust"
Floor Price: Php 5,966,561.07
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 14-07
S.S.I. No. 2007-04
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new AUDI A8L Passenger Car 2006 WAUML44E36NO17695
"AS IS WHERE IS"
"Proceeds to be held in trust"
Floor Price: Php 5,966,561.07
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 15-07
S.S.I. No. 2007-05
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new AUDI A8L Passenger Car 2006 WAUML44E36NO19477
"AS IS WHERE IS"
"Proceeds to be held in trust"
Floor Price: Php 5,966,561.07
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 16-07
S.S.I. No. 2007-06
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new Corvette Convertible Passenger Car 2006 IGIYY36U865111570
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 4,066,273.15
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 17-07
S.S.I. No. 2007-07
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new BMW 750i Passenger Car 2006 WBAHN83516DT62802
"AS IS WHERE IS"
"Proceeds to be held in trust"
Floor Price: Php 6,522,179.19
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 18-07
S.S.I. No. 2007-08
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new CADILLAC ESCALADE EXT PICK UP TRUCK 2007 3GYFK62877G116239
"AS IS WHERE IS"
"Proceeds to be held in trust"
Floor Price: Php 4,780,543.92
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 19-07
S.S.I. No. 2006-09
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new SUV ACURA MDX Passenger Car, 2HNYD18956H513694
"AS IS WHERE IS"
"Proceeds to be held in trust"
Floor Price: Php 3,395,130.82
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 20-07
S.S.I. No. 2007-10
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new SUV ACURA MDX Passenger Car, 2HNYD18995H553176
"AS IS WHERE IS"
"Proceeds to be held in trust"
Floor Price: Php 2,959,814.94
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 21-07
S.S.I. No. 2007-11
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new BMW 750i Passenger Car, WBAHN835X6DT38353
"AS IS WHERE IS"
"Proceeds to be held in trust"
Floor Price: Php 6,522,179.19
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 22-07
S.S.I. No. 2007-12
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new BMW 750i Passenger Car, WBAHN83506DT60605
"AS IS WHERE IS"
"Proceeds to be held in trust"
Floor Price: Php 6,522,179.19
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 23-07
S.S.I. No. 2007-13
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new SUV NISSAN ARMADA 2006, SNIAA08A46N703607
"AS IS WHERE IS"
"Proceeds to be held in trust"
Floor Price: Php 3,032,977.27
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 24-07
S.S.I. No. 2007-14
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new SUV INFINITY FX45 2005 JNRBS08W25X402113
"AS IS WHERE IS"
"Proceeds to be held in trust"
Floor Price: Php 3,067,729.38
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 25-07
S.S.I. No. 2007-15
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new BMW 325i Passenger Car 2006, WBAVB175X6NK38213
"AS IS WHERE IS"
"Proceeds to be held in trust"
Floor Price: Php 2,300,439.41
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 26-07
S.S.I. No. 2007-16
Hidemitsu Trading Corp.
1st Advertisement
One (1) unused/brand new CADILLAC ESCAPADE Utility Vehicle 2007, IGYFK63807R177270
"AS IS WHERE IS"
"Proceeds to be held in trust"
Floor Price: Php 5,095,897.52
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No.01-05
Consignee: DAEYONG TRADING
Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan. 05
6th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Hyundai Grandeur 1987 Model Color: Black Chassis No. KMHNF21FPKU015611
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 33,989.12
Location: NSD

Sale Lot No. 05-05
Consignee: DAEYONG TRADING
Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan. 05
6th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Hyundai Sonata 1991 Model Color: Blue Chassis No. KMHBF31FPMU372320
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: 37,446.40
Location: NSD

Sale Lot No. 06-05
Consignee: DAEYONG TRADING
Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05
6th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Hyundai Sonata 1991 Model Color. Blue Chassis No. KMHBF3331FPNU420102
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 37,446.40
Location: NSD

Sale Lot No. 07-05
Consignee: DAEYONG TRADING
Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan. 05
6th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Hyundai Sonata 1990 Model Color: White Chassis No. KMHBF21DPNU424221
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 33,989.12
Location: NSD

Sale Lot No. 08-05
Consignee: DAEYONG TRADING
Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan. 05
6th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Hyundai Grandeur 1990 Model Color: Gray Chassis No. KMHNF21FPJU008549
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 33,989.12
Location: NSD

Sale Lot No. 04-48
Consignee: SUBIC ACROPOLIS
S.I. No. 2002-21
6th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Nissan Terrano Chassis No. WB4-D21-055911 LHD
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 124,928.00
Location: NSD

Sale Lot No. 14-05
Consignee: Bayshore Gen. Mdse.
Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-03
4th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Nissan Caravan RHD 1989 Model Color: White Chassis No. VRMGE24-013579
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 73,710.72
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 15-05
Consignee: Bayshore Gen. Mdse.
Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-03
4th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Delica RHD 1991 Model Color: Light Blue Chassis No. P35W-0112297
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 93,228.56
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 18-05
Consignee: Bayshore Gen. Mdse.
Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-03
4th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Toyota Lucida RHD 1992 Model Color: Silver Chassis No CXR21-0002849
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 126,871.52
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 19-05
Consignee: Bayshore Gen. Mdse.
Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-03
4th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Toyota Caldina RHD 1993 Model Color: Dark Blue Chassis No STT95-5005557
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 78,060.00
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No.35-05
Consignee: FG 628 Trading Co..
Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02
4th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Pajero RHD 1989 Model Color: Dark Gray Chassis No L149G-3021038
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 78,396.40
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 36-05
Consignee: FG 628 Trading Co..
Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02
4th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Nissan Serena RHD 1993 Model Color: Gray Chassis No KVC23-022018
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 94,471.20
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 37-05
Consignee: FG 628 Trading Co..
Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02
4th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Isuzu MU RHD 1990 Model Color: Black Chassis No UCS17DW-7100899
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 74,159.60
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 41-05
Consignee: FG 628 Trading Co..
Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02
4th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Toyota Lite Ace RHD 1992 Model Color: Black Gray Chassis No CR21-0171503
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 91,958.24
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 42-05
Consignee: FG 628 Trading Co..
Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02
4th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Delica RHD 1991 Model Color: Green Chassis No P35W-0206692
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 83,140.08
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 43-05
Consignee: FG 628 Trading Co..
Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02
4th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Toyota Lite Ace RHD 1992 Model Color: Dark Gray Chassis No CR21-0199065
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 101,376.00
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 45-05
Consignee: FG 628 Trading Co..
Abandonment Proceeding No. 2005-02
4th Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Delica RHD 1992 Model Color: Green Chassis No P25W-0617275
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 88,456.16
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 46-05
Consignee: Bayshore Gen. Mdse.
Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05
2nd Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Nissan Bongo RHD 1992 Model Color: Maroon Chassis No. SSF8R-274754
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 105,078.40
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 47-05
Consignee: Bayshore Gen. Mdse.
Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05
2nd Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Mits. Delica RHD 1992 Model Color: Blue and White Chassis No. P25W-03054428
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 85,304.00
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 48-05
Consignee: Bayshore Gen. Mdse.
Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05
2nd Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Nissan Terrano RHD 1992 Model Color: Black Chassis No. WBYD21-076782
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 145,112.00
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 49-05
Consignee: Asialink Trading
Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05
2nd Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Ssangyong Korando Family 1992 Model Color: Blue Chassis No. KPARB5CPINP140181
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 71,471.68
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 50-05
Consignee: Asialink Trading
Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05
2nd Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Ssangyong Korando Family 1992 Model Color: Silver/Blue Chassis No. KPARB5CPIPP145988
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 71,471.68
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 51-05
Consignee: Daeyong Trading
Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05
2nd Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Mitsubishi Eclipse 1989 Model Color: Red Chassis No. D22A-0000408
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 135,692.00
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 52-05
Consignee: Daeyong Trading
Decree of Abandonment dated 7 Jan.05
2nd Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Audi 80 1.9E 1988 Model Color: Silver Chassis No. WAUZZZ89UA347219
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 67,800.80
Location: Warehouse 1012, NSD

Sale Lot No. 56-05
Consignee: PCS Cargo Movers
D.A dated 17 October 2005
2nd Advertisement
30x20 container Ceramic Tiles Various sizes, designs and colors
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 17,217,650.40
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 57-05
Consignee: PCS Cargo Movers
D.A dated 17 October 2005
2nd Advertisement
10x20 container Ceramic Tiles Various sizes, designs and colors
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 5,739,216.96
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 03-07
Consignee: Raiden
2nd Advertisement
One (1) lot Video Monitors (29" and 21") 30 units
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 122,603.20
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 07-07
2nd Advertisement
One (1) lot Ceramic Tile Maker branded as "Fuccelli" (Made in Italy)
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 1,227,092.00
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 10-07
2nd Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Coronado Speed Boat
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 282,737.60
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 11-07
2nd Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Blue Larson Hampton SpeedBoat
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 423,702.40
Location: NSD Compound

Sale Lot No. 12-07
2nd Advertisement
One (1) Unit Used Duck Hams Speed Boat
"AS IS WHERE IS"
Floor Price: Php 318,280.80
Location: NSD Compound

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BPO roadmap seen to be crucial

RP companies out to double global market share by 2010

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED service firms are pushing for the faster development of the domestic talent pool—a key element in the industry's plans to increase revenues to $7 billion, and the workforce to 500,000 by 2010.

In yesterday's opening of the Call Center Conference & Expo 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, industry experts agreed that the sector must strive for growth rates that would be greater than what could be observed so far.

To do this, members of the Business Processing Association of the Philippines (B/PAP) and Contact Center Association of the Philippines—organizer and host of the forum cum exhibition—agreed to develop and push for an industry roadmap to achieve their goals over the next four years.

"The roadmap is meant to enable outsource and offshore service providers, not only to sustain their businesses, but also to [enhance] their growth potential," said B/PAP president Oscar R. Sañez.

"The industry also needs to create new locations, other than Quezon City, Alabang, Eastwood, Makati and McKinley," Sañez added. "We should develop further alternative sites for our facilities like Iloilo, Tacloban and Cagayan de Oro."

He also said that companies should work with the government to create the right business environment, especially one with tax incentives and similar come-ons.

Rainerio Borja, director of the Contract Center Association of the Philippines, said the industry needed to focus on enhancing the available talent pool of agents, as well as the management skills being used to push the sector toward the roadmap goals.

However, Borja belied concerns that there was a skills "vacuum" or that the talent pool was "drying up," saying that such views were "panicky."

Benedict Hernandez, vice president of eTelecare Global Solutions' Philippine operations, agreed, saying the industry has had sustained growth in the past few years using the available workforce.

"The challenge is how to expand on the growth rate we have been able to achieve so far," Hernandez said.

B/PAP data show that, at current "as-is" potentials, the industry can grow to $6 billion in revenue by 2010.

But Sañez said that if the industry worked harder, the domestic industry's current global market share of 5 percent could double in four years, growing at a compound annual rate of 40 percent.

This breakthrough growth means the creation of 340,000 new jobs, on top of the current 200,000 industry workforce, he explained.

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Small firms must comply with mine law, DENR says

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONment and Natural Resources said that even small-scale mining operations are not excused from complying with the environmental, safety and health, and social provisions of the Mining Act of 1995.

Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes issued the statement as he announced the issuance of the clarificatory guidelines that should "finally put to rest all issues and misconceptions on small-scale mining operations."

"We want to ensure that, in any case, our people would benefit from the extraction of our minerals whether through small, medium or large-scale operation, while their health and safety are taken care of, and our environment protected," said Reyes.

Reyes issued the guidelines last week to all concerned officials and offices to implement another law, Presidential Decree No. 1899, which establishes small-scale mining as a new dimension in mineral development.

Reyes said small-scale miners are now required to secure environmental compliance certificates from regional offices of the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau, and submit a potential environmental impact report.

Reyes also emphasized the definition of small-scale mining to protect the government from unscrupulous entities that pose as small-scale miners while, in fact, conducting large-scale mining operations.

In terms of production, Reyes said the maximum annual production allowed for metallic minerals shall be 50,000 dry metric tons of "ore, not the metal itself."

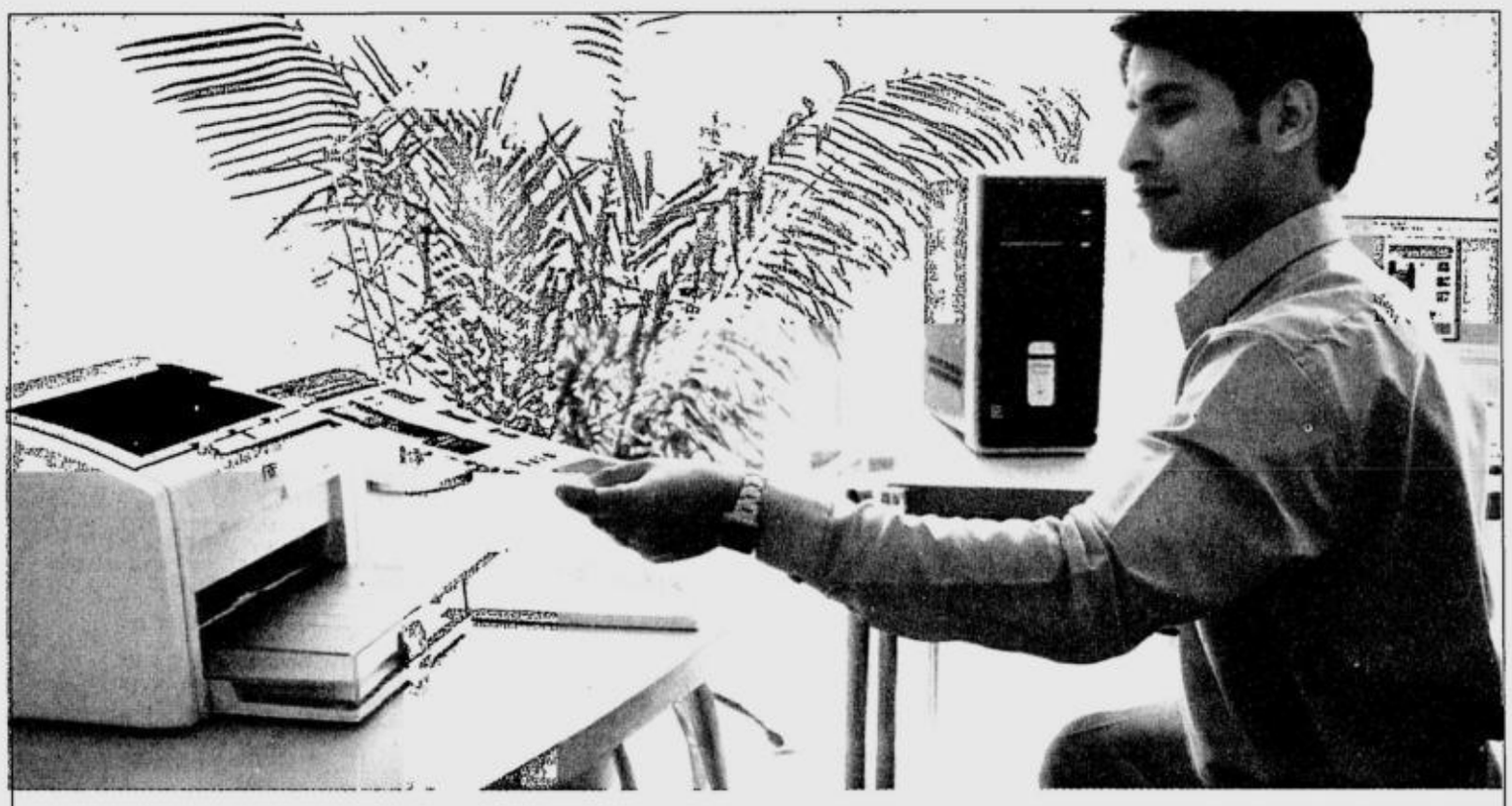
For nonmetallic minerals, the allowed maximum annual production is 50,000 dry metric tons of the material itself.

In terms of area, mining permit holders and contractors are only allowed a maximum of 20 hectares per permit or contract area.

"The DENR would be very strict on these provisions, along with environmental requirements," Reyes warned. "Only applications with ECC conforming to the laws' provisions shall be allowed to mine on a small-scale basis. Indiscriminate small-scale mining operation must be stopped."

Mines and Geosciences Bureau records show that of the P68.4 billion gross production value in mining in 2006, over P28.1 billion or about 41 percent came from small-scale gold mining alone.

It is estimated that there are over 2,000 approved small-scale mining permits all over the country, involving 200,000 people including miners and their families.



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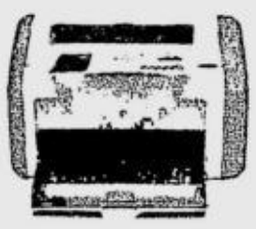

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Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 5633, Series of 2006

Banks push up 4-year T-bond rate to 6.965%

By Michelle V. Remo

RATE FOR THE FOUR-YEAR Treasury bonds rose by nearly half a percentage point yesterday, as the government accepted bids of banks who sought higher risk premium on their investments.

The new rate for the four-year bonds hit 6.965 percent in yesterday's auction, rising by 46.5 basis points from the previously recorded 6.412 percent.

The government accepted P7 billion worth of bids, raising its entire borrowing requirement for yesterday's auction. Total amount of bids reached P13.773 billion.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who is also acting national treasurer, told reporters that although banks tried to push interest rates higher, the increase they sought were reasonable.

"The new interest rate is just going along (secondary) market trading levels, that is why we accepted their bids," Tan said in a press briefing after the auction held at the Bureau of the Treasury.

According to Tan, it is all right for the government to borrow at a higher rate, so long as the new rate reflects what is happening in the secondary market.

The acting treasurer explained that the increase in interest rate for government securities was partly due to the availability of alternative investments that are deemed virtually risk-free.

Tan was referring to the special depository account offered by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to the trust departments of banks and to government-owned and –controlled corporations (GOCCs).

The interest rates offered by the central bank to GOCCs were made higher than rates on government securities of comparable tenors.

Meanwhile, monetary authorities decided to allow trust departments of banks to directly deposit to the central bank. Instead of focusing their investments in government securities, trust departments of banks have since been allocating a significant portion of investable funds for deposit to the BSP.

The BSP decided to accept direct deposits from trust departments of banks and encourage GOCCs to park more of their funds with the BSP in order to siphon off excess liquidity in the system that could accelerate inflation in the future.

The BSP implemented the mea-

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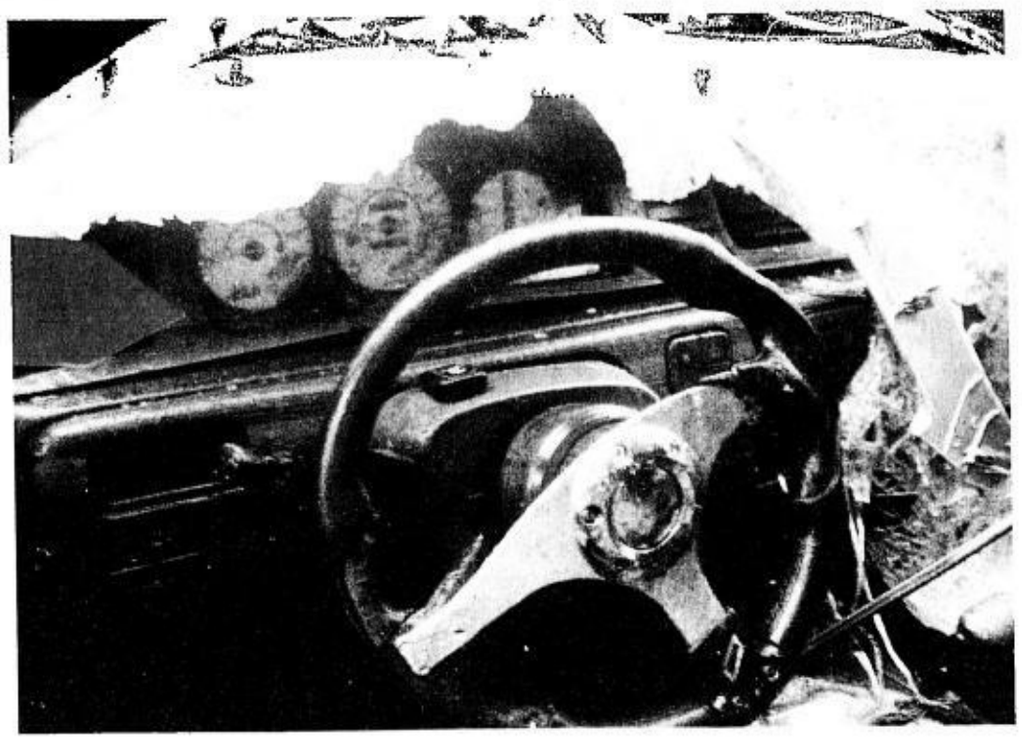

MAKE sure you're in control of even the unpredictable by knowing your policy inside and out. STANDARD INSURANCE

By Tessa R. Salazar

CAN SOMEONE ACTUALLY carry out fictitious insurance claims from your car registration and insurance policy copies? Should you keep copies of your car registration and insurance policies in your car? Does your car insurance policy cover natural disasters and other "acts of God"?

They say being a responsible driver doesn't only entail knowing how to drive and being able to read and follow road signs. It's also about taking care of the paperwork needed to secure yourself, your car and others even before unwanted events occur. Here are 10 important points to consider as you answer the questions raised above.

1 Ask your car insurance provider what exactly your comprehensive insurance coverage includes, and what you specifically need. Comprehensive insurance doesn't necessarily cover "Acts of God" (AOG is the term used for floods, typhoons, lightning, or even freak accidents such as billboards falling on your car).

Damages to your car caused by mob riots during rallies or damages caused by acts of terrorism are also not included. Gregorio M. Poblador, president of Direct Link insurance, stresses that AOG and these other causes separate from what are stated in the standard motor car policies can add to your premium rates. Maybe, if you happen to live in the Mendiola area, or you pass by Edsa every day, does adding "riots" and "falling billboards" to your coverage be worth the extra cost?

2 Invest time and effort to research on prospective car insurance companies that are reputable. Use the Internet, ask your motorist associates, call up insurance companies. The best protection you can give to yourself and your car is a good car insurance policy and not just deterrent devices that would take you minutes to install while you're alone in a parking lot, Poblador says.

LTO traffic safety division chief Daisy P. Jacobo suggests that you can also include the Land Transportation Office for real-time verification, specifically for insurance concerning comprehensive third party liabilities.

> Being a responsible driver is also about taking care of the paperwork needed to secure yourself, your car and others even before unwanted events occur.

3 There have been actual cases of other parties filing fictitious claims against an unwitting car insurance policy owner, and they had even filed for bodily injury or death claims using the owner's coverage. That's "identity theft" for your car insurance, and syndicates can process claims on the basis of a mere photocopy of the policy alone. With the right information, syndicates can produce a death affidavit purportedly from you stating that you ran over a pedestrian.

So, should you leave your registration copy and insurance policy paper in your car? During maintenance checks or if leaving your car unattended for a long time, keep the copy of your car registration and insurance policy in hard-to-find spots in your car, or better yet, always keep them in your person. Idena Enfestan, Standard Insurance company's head of policy servicing group, says that as you keep these documents inside your bag, it is important that you return these to your car once you're back and driving again.

4 In multiple vehicle collision cases, and proven that the motorist at the rearmost is the party at fault, he or she (or his or her insurance) should be liable for all the damages of the vehicles involved, Poblador says, citing "proximate cause." Enfestan describes this as rights of recovery against the ultimate party at fault. She adds that the party at fault could be determined through police investigation and statements of the parties involved.

Enfestan says, however, that the vehicle from the rear is not always at fault, but the party who first inflicts the damage or the collision. "But in most cases, on a one-lane road the one who bumps from behind causes a chain collision to the other vehicles ahead," she says.

5 Always bring a camera in your car. It will facilitate traffic accident reporting, which is needed to claim damages. A simple alteration in an accident investigator's sketch could change the facts and make you the offender instead of the aggrieved party, Poblador says.

6 Know the authorized repair limit of your car's policy. And during car repairs, demand the shops to show you the brand-new parts that will be replaced. There are cases when persons from the claims department and the repair shops connive to your disadvantage, Poblador says.

7 It is the duty of your car insurance company to recover the expenses from the offending party's insurance company. It must pursue a recovery case from the offending party's insurance.

8 In times when both parties agree to exchange calling cards, they should ask each other to put in writing the incident and agree on who was at fault and that the party at fault would be willing to settle the damages of the aggrieved party. Take note of the insurance policy document and registration of the offending party and have him or her sign, Poblador reminds motorists.

9 Ask your car insurance company if it has a "no-claims bonus" discount. Poblador says that Direct Link, for instance, increases its premium coverage for policy owners showing a clean record during renewal. "If all car insurance companies would do this, all drivers and owners (would be motivated) to drive safely and become defensive drivers," Poblador says.

10 Check the records of the car before you buy it. The LTO file could reveal the history and previous ownership. Jacobo confirms, that there's a records section to verify this.

Poblador warns motorists that there are parties who gain possession of car wrecks, use their body number and engine block, and transfer these to a stolen but brand-new car. He cites a case involving a spurious deed of sale from the first owner indicating a sale amount of P1 million, which suddenly depreciated to P300,000 in the second deed of sale, and then being sold to another for P700,000.

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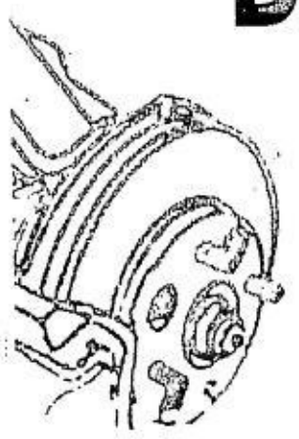
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Subaru marks first year in RP

MOTOR IMAGE PILIPINAS, THE EXCLUSIVE distributor of Subaru vehicles in Southeast Asia, is marking its first year of operation in the Philippines by offering special financing package deals to all new Subaru customers. Current Subaru owners are also in for a treat with the special discounts that will be offered for both parts and service throughout the month of July.

After opening business in the country last year, Motor Image has established the Philippines as one of the stronger Subaru markets in the region with its strong performance in vehicle sales, part and service.

Remarkable reception

Since last year, Motor Image has enjoyed its return to the Philippine automotive scene with the market's remarkable reception to its models—the compact sport utility Forester, the executive sedan Legacy 2.0R, the crossover Outback 3.0R and the highly acclaimed sports sedans Impreza WRX and STI.

Customers have since been all praises with the exceptional performance generated by its standard boxer engine and all-wheel-drive configuration found in all Subaru vehicles. It is no wonder then that Subaru has been the recipient of different awards for the past year.

Recently, the Forester 2.5 XT has been judged as the best entry-level SUV while the Outback 3.0R was recognized as the best luxury SUV by the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi). Viewers of the popular TV motoring show "Auto Focus" have voted the Impreza WRX as the People's Choice Sports Car of the Year.

Special value package deals

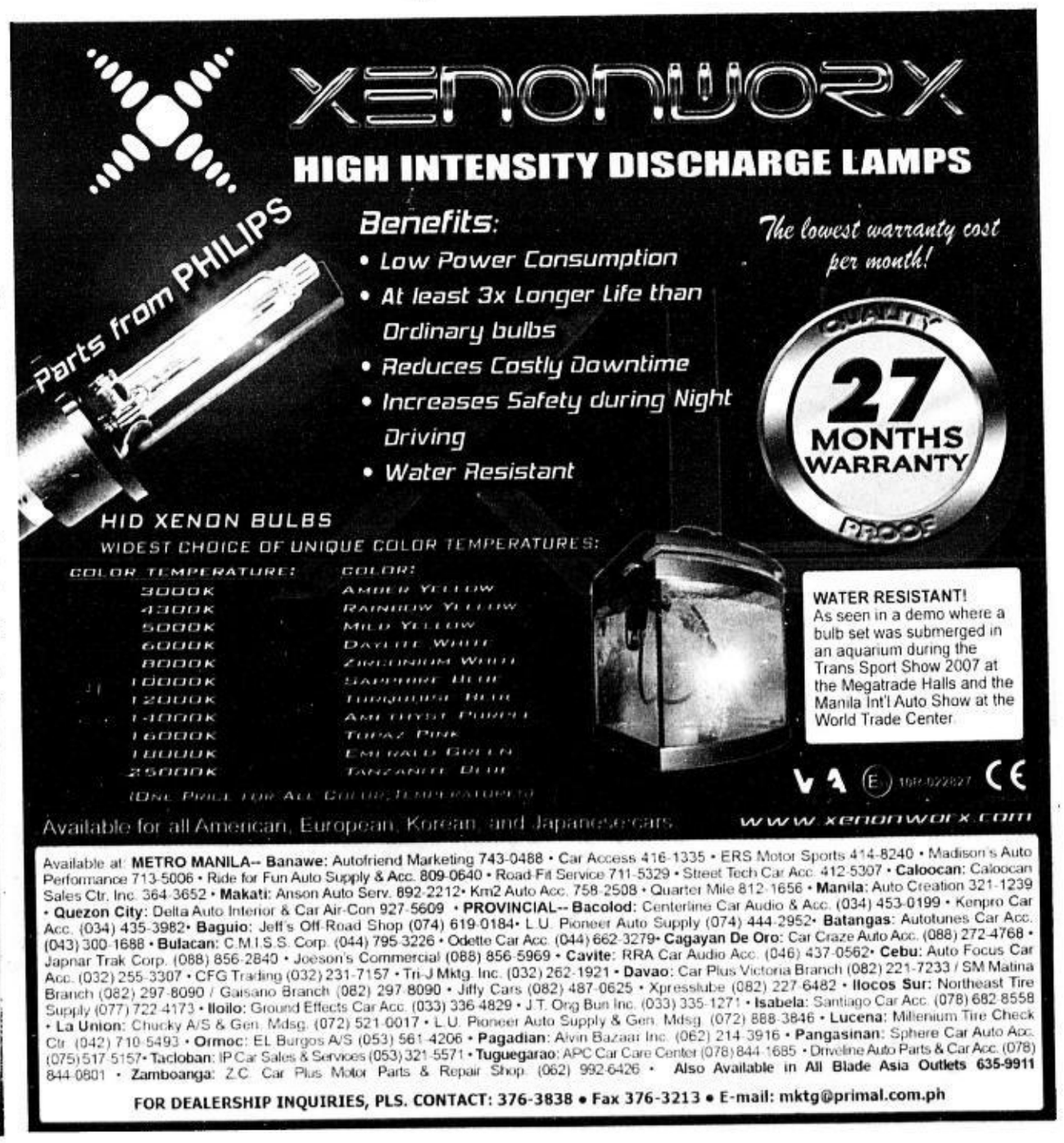
Motor Image is now offering special value package deals for all customers in July for the Forester, Legacy, Impreza WRX and Outback models. Special discounts ranging from P30,000 up to P100,000 are available on select models for all cash buyers. Buyers can also choose the special financing packages that offer zero-interest plans, low monthly amortization schemes and low down-payment deals in cooperation with the country's leading financial institutions such as BPI, Philam, PS-Bank and BDO.

All current Subaru customers will also be treated by Motor Image to a special service campaign where they can avail of special discounts on parts, accessories and labor charges. For the whole month of July, all Subaru owners can take advantage of the 15 percent discount on all parts and accessories.

What's more, Motor Image and its team of

SUBARU/ B2-3

SUBARU WRX



2007 MITSUBISHI Eclipse

Eclipse: bolder or just older?

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

REVIEWING THE 2007 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE was supposed to be easy.

Ok, you have a two-door coupé complete with sheet metal done in summer sci-fi blockbuster fashion. Then there's an engine that's massive for the Philippine market. Once seated inside, the driver and passenger sit low in the cabin, blanketed by all sorts of sport-themed leather, polymer and fabric. This is a car that makes one want to take on the open road, hand the tarmac a beating and drive off into the sunset pleasantly satisfied by the experience.

All the initial cues seem to point in exactly one direction, a single assessment of sorts. On paper and merely standing still, the Eclipse screams all out speed. This car couldn't be anything but a great driving package. Agree, ladies and gentlemen? You do? Great! Column ends here, see you next week.

If only things were that simple. Rather than provide clear-cut answers, the time spent tooling about in the current model Mitsubishi Eclipse has actually raised more questions, with a single query undoubtedly the most important. What is the point of this car anyway? Then there are the other lingering questions. Is it a true performance driving tool or a posh cruiser posing the part? Does the car drive as dramatically as it looks?

Very different

Those who remember the first two generation Eclipse's (1990-1994, 1995-1999) will find the current fourth generation a very different animal. Gone are the variants of the signature turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine, the iconic 4G63 powerplant of Evolution fame. The third generation Eclipse (2000 -2005) was the first to break the forced induction trend with a 3.0-liter V6 and the current model is a confirmation that Mitsubishi's flagship coupé is sticking to sheer naturally aspirated displacement as its means achieving engine power.

The 3.8-liter Mivec V6 is the single most important feature of this car, defining it for all intents and purposes. Two hundred and seventy horses along with 360 Nm of torque assure that this member of the diamond star stable has sufficient amounts of pull and kick in the trousers acceleration. Make the mistake of giving the car even slightly too much throttle and all hell breaks loose.

Torque steer is ludicrous in this car, even with the traction control on; the vehicle tends to pull to the right every time your right foot meets the floor pan, complete with dramatic tire squeal. Great if you are prone to juvenile chapters of automotive histrionics but really difficult when one is trying to drive with a certain amount of finesse.

More for comfort

With a ride sprung more for comfort and touring, driving this coupé can get more than a little interesting. Taking the Eclipse through a series of turns is an exercise in patience and throttle control.

Being front-wheel-drive and endowed with so much power and torque, most cornering situations will ask that your foot be merely feathering the throttle or off the gas pedal entirely. Though this will feel excruciatingly slow it allows one to combat the terminal under steer that comes with the car. "Better to come into a corner slow and smooth rather than not come out at all" is a front-wheel driver's mantra—but this is nothing short of a Commandment in the Eclipse.

Headturner

The verdict is simple. Gone is the sport compact driving tool. In its place is a car with a split personality of sorts. Visually, one cannot go wrong with the strong, themed lines. Whether people agree with or dislike the way it looks; one thing is for sure the Eclipse will, beyond any sort of doubt, turn heads.

Vehicle dynamics wise, the edge is gone. We get a softer, more refined coupé that is as comfortable and easy on the driver's back, a sure sign of compromise. Finally, let us not forget the awesome powerplant. The engine is pure hooligan, allowing those who choose an Eclipse to hang on to their adolescence with enthusiastic stabs at the gas pedal. Again, mind the torque steer please.

MOTO

Mitsubishi?

Conclusion

ON THE F

Aida Sevill Mendoza

AMONG MITSUBISHI'S ALL-NEW 2007 sport utility vehicles, the Pajero remains the only true 4x4 machine as it has all the off-road essentials: low-range gearing, high-articulation suspension, body/mechanical protection and overall durability. Displayed by Mitsubishi Motors as a concept car at the 1973 Tokyo Motor Show, the Pajero was launched on the market in 1982.

To establish its credentials as a true 4WD, the Pajero entered the tough 8,966-km, two-week-long Paris-Dakar off-road rally race and won after three forays. Since then, the Pajero has conquered the legendary Dakar with 12 victories including seven straight from 2001 until 2007. Small wonder that 2.5 million production units of the Pajero have been sold worldwide so far.

In this country, however, the Pajero is more widely known as a status symbol and favorite target of carjackers than as a genuine all-terrain vehicle capable of serious off-roading like the Toyota Land Cruiser and Nissan Patrol. (All the other SUVs from Japan are considered "soft utility vehicles" by some hard-core 4WD believers.)

Stronger

Imported CBU from Japan, the fourth generation Pajero is built on a lighter but stronger monocoque chassis. It sports a new front grille with two horizontal chrome strips lodging the triangular Mitsubishi badge, new HID headlamps, an aluminum hood and new 6-spoke 17-inch alloy wheels. The spare tire, encased in a carrier with built-in rear fog lamp, has been moved to the center of the rear door and lowered to help improve visibility. Viewed from the side, the '07 Pajero reminded me of the Nissan Patrol because of its long, somewhat boxy structure.

Inside, a multi-information display monitor occupies the center of the all-black dashboard with wood and silver accents. The steering wheel has integrated audio remote and cruise control switches, but it adjusts only for rake, not reach. The audio system, a single in-dash CD/MP3 tuner with digital sound processor, equalizer and 6 speakers, is not as fancy as the Outlander's 6-in–dash CD/MP3,

650-watt Rockfo

Rear aircon c a pleasant amb the second row ward to increas up or down re levers in the co row seats, only there.

New engines

The Pajero H than a facelift engines it offers HC Mivec gasoli and 33.6 kg-m inline 4 cylin bocharged inte injection diese PS/3,500 rpm 2,000 rpm. Th P2.588 million priced at P2.68

Both versions 5-speed autor Sportronic man 4WD (SS4 II) tra

2007 Volvo XC90 rated top safety pick by US agency

THE VOLVO SUV WAS AMONG 13 VEHICLES earning Top Safety Pick awards for 2007 announced by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. This award recognizes vehicles that do the best job of protecting people in front, side and rear crashes based on ratings in IIHS tests.

"Our crash tests cover the most common kinds of real-world collisions," says Institute president Adrian Lund. "Designating Top Safety Pick winners based on the tests makes it easier for consumers to identify vehicles that afford the best overall protection without sifting through multiple sets of comparative test results," he adds.

A new requirement for 2007 is that the winning vehicles must offer electronic stability control, or ESC. This addition is based on Institute research indicating that ESC significantly reduces crash risk, especially the risk of fatal single-vehicle crashes, by helping drivers maintain control of their vehicles during emergency maneuvers.

XC90 ELECTRIC Silver driving

Industry first

It is notable that the Volvo XC90's Roll Stability Control (RSC) was an industry first.

"Integrated safety technology has set the XC90 apart since its introduction, and it's part of Volvo DNA to focus of real-world safety," says Anne Bélec, president and CEO, Volvo Cars of North America. "An award like this validates Volvo's commitment, and explains why customers have made the XC90 the best-selling European SUV in the United States," she stresses.

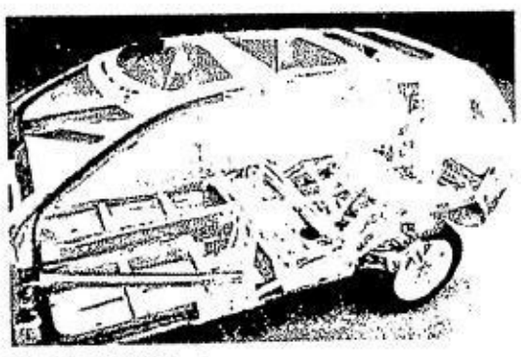
The IIHS rates vehicles good, acceptable, marginal, or poor based on performance in high-speed front and side crash tests plus evaluations of seat/head restraints for protection against neck injuries in rear impacts. The first requirement for a vehicle to become a Top Safety Pick is to earn good ratings in all three Institute tests. The Volvo XC90 achieved "Good" in each of the three crash tests.

SUVs weren't eligible to win in 2006 because the Institute hadn't evaluated the side crashworthiness of many of them. Now more SUVs have been rated, and 2007 winners reflect the safety improvements manufacturers have been making to these vehicles.

Criteria for selection

The criteria for selecting winners included:

XC90 AND S40 crash test



XC90 CRASH test

The Institute's frontal crashworthiness evaluations are based on results of frontal offset crash tests at 40 mph. Each vehicle's overall evaluation is based on measurements of intrusion into the occupant compartment, injury measures from a Hybrid III dummy in the driver seat, and analysis of slow-motion film to assess how well the restraint system controlled dummy movement during the test.

Each vehicle's overall side evaluation is based on performance in a crash test in which the side of the vehicle is struck by a barrier moving at 31 mph that represents the front end of a pickup or SUV. Ratings reflect injury measures recorded on two instrument-equipped dummies, assessment of head protection countermeasures, and the vehicle's structural performance during the impact.

Injury measures obtained from the two dummies, one in the driver seat and the other in the back seat behind the driver, are used to determine the likelihood that a driver and/or passenger in a real-world crash would have sustained serious injury. The movements and contacts of the dummies' heads during the crash also are evaluated. Structural performance is based on measurements indicating the amount of B-pillar intrusion into the occupant compartment.

2-step procedure

Rear crash protection is rated according to a two-step procedure. Starting points for the ratings are measurements of head restraint geometry—the height of a restraint and its horizontal distance behind the back of the head of an average-size man. Seats with good or acceptable restraint geometry are tested dynamically using a dummy that measures forces on the neck. This test simulates a collision in which a stationary vehicle is struck in the rear at 20 mph. Seats without good or acceptable geometry are rated poor overall because they can't be positioned to protect many people.

In Manila, Viking Cars Inc. is the official distributor of Volvo cars. The Volvo Makati office, showroom and Aftersales Service Center are located at 2272 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City while Volvo Ortigas Center is located at 88 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Volvo Cebu is located on A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City.

The 2007 Volvo automobile line includes the compact all-new S40 and V50 Sportswagon, sporty S60, the flagship S80 luxury sedan, the rugged XC70 Cross Country and the award-winning XC90 AWD.

Toyo

TOYOTA MOTO Corp. is taking t protect the enviro automotive prod social responsibil of such efforts, world-renowned ly hybrid car Toyo try.

Recipient of tional automotive Prius is known economy capabil technology. Its ca tricity to accelera nificantly reduce

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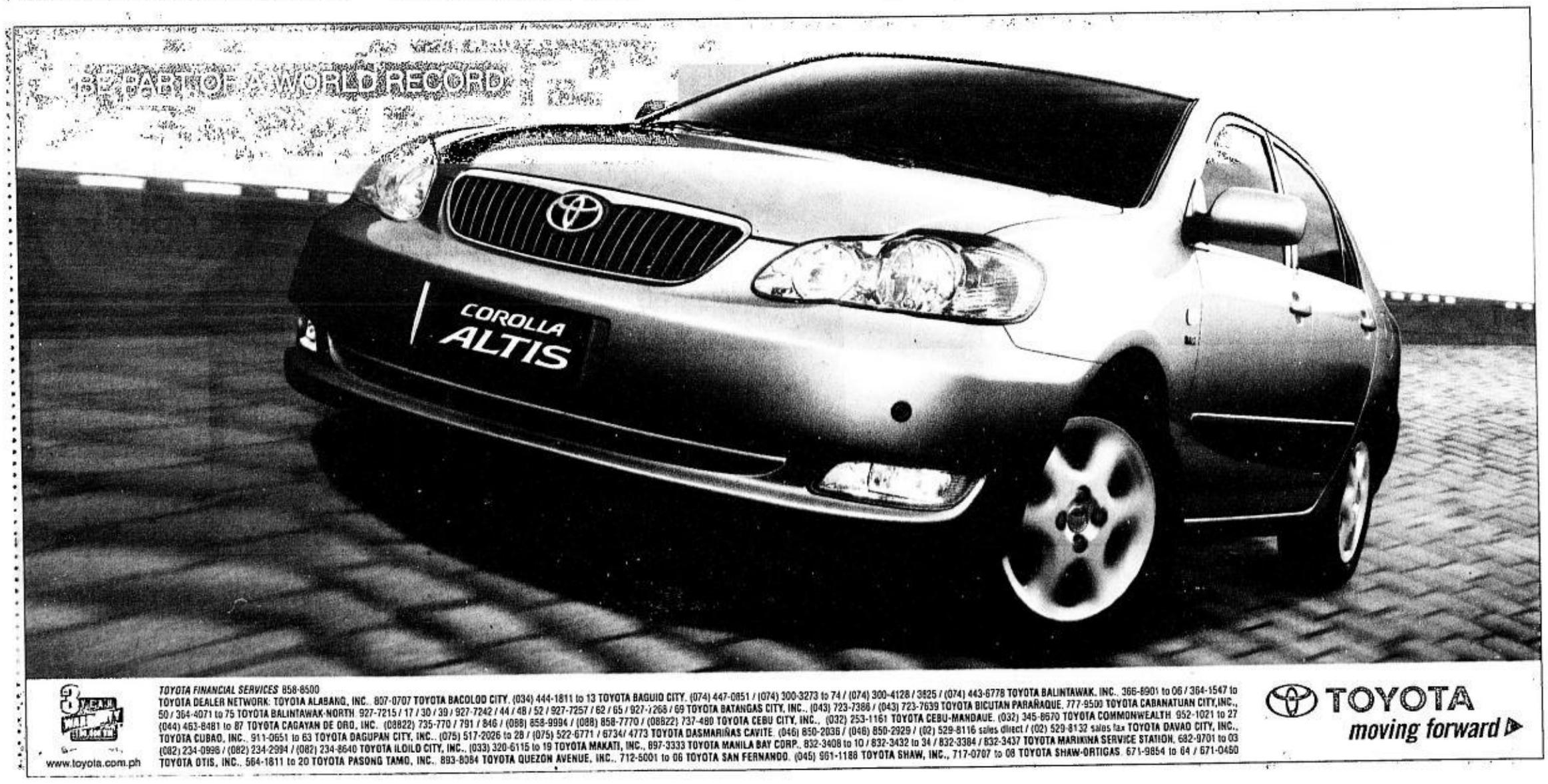

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mainly because of the new
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while the DI-D version is
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THE 2007 Endeavor is Mitsubishi's midsized SUV.
PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA

THE THIRD row seat of the 2007 Pajero is for kids only.

THE 3.2 DI-D common rail diesel engine of the 2007 Pajero

ential lock and M-ASTC (Mitsubishi Active Stability Traction Control). The high-tech off-road hardware allows you to shift from 2WD to 4WD without stopping so that when the going gets rocky or slippery, you can easily shift to 4H, the standard full-time 4WD mode, and continue driving at highway cruising speeds. Or tiptoe down hillsides with full control and confidence.

That the Pajero is primarily a 4WD beast does not mean that it rides rough on tarmac. The DI-D Pajero I test-drove provided firm, almost sedan-like riding comfort (at least in the front seats), minimal NVH and surprising maneuverability in urban traffic.

6 airbags

Aside from M-ASTC, the Pajero has six airbags, ABS with EBD and disc brakes on all four wheels. This shows how Mitsubishi Motors has raised the bar for standard safety equipment in SUVs. The 4-wheel independent suspension with coil springs and stabilizer bars plus the monocoque body translate into increased wheel travel for added stability and traction.

What impressed me most about the DI-D Pajero—its off-road prowess being a given—was its on-road fuel efficiency despite its size and heft. After receiving it with a full tank (88 liters) of diesel, I drove it for two days before taking it to Alfonso, Cavite and back with a full load of passengers. Yet the fuel gauge's needle did not even touch the one-fourth tank mark.

Remember the genie who appeared in a dream I had, offering to lend me Mitsubishi's all-new SUVs—the Outlander, the Endeavor and the Pajero—so I could take my pick? He reappeared to retrieve the Pajero and asked me if I had decided which of the three I wanted. "Yes!" I replied, but before I could tell him he disappeared in a puff of smoke.

New fuel additive . . .

From page B2-4

hancing additive for both gasoline and diesel engines.

Tested

"More importantly, Ultimate ME2 has been tested in a recognized independent laboratory that employed the United States Environmental Protection Agency testing protocol,'" he shared.

The California-based company, Automotive Development and Testing Services, did the tests.

O'Neill said that in the aspect of fuel economy, the Ultimate ME2 delivered a 13 percent increase in mileage to gasoline-powered vehicles tested and a 16 percent increase to a diesel-powered counterparts.

On the aspect of EPA's emission tests, the product when mixed into fuel, was shown to reduce hydrocarbon emissions by 7 percent, carbon monoxide by 33 percent, and oxides of nitrogen emissions by 44 percent.

O'Neill also informed that the Philippines' Department of Energy in May last year did a comparative run that used the product on several passenger and light-duty vehicles (gasoline- and diesel-powered in either automatic or manual transmission).

From these tests, all the vehicles that later used the fuel additive delivered improved fuel-efficiency rating, sustaining the product's claims.

Formulation

The Ultimate ME2, O'Neill said, is made up of a formulation similar to the hydrocarbons found in fuel that company scientist Dennis Leung developed in 1996.

"His formulation breaks down fuel molecules into much finer particles. This results in uniform and complete combustion of the fuel, thus giving the engine smoother performance, cleaner emissions and better fuel economy," O'Neill explained.

He also informed that EYI International has partnered with marketing firm Orientrends Inc. to be its exclusive marketer of the product here in the Philippines.

"I believe this product will have a great future here considering that the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources is aiming to lower Metro Manila's (where most of the country's vehicles are concentrated) present level of total suspended particles 20 percent annually until 2010 in order to reach the acceptable standard of 90 micrograms per normal cubic meters (Metro Manila's 2005 level is already 135.11 micrograms/NCM)," O'Neill concluded.

Subaru marks . . .

From page B2-1

highly trained service technicians are giving their customers 50 percent off the usual labor charges. These are just part of Motor Image's expression of gratitude to all Subaru owners who have committed their trust to the company.

Motor Image will continue to surprise its fans and enthusiasts with a host of new offerings for the rest of the year reaffirming its long-term commitment to all its customers and Subaru owners by offering them the latest models, the immediate availability of genuine Subaru parts and the service of world-class Subaru technicians.

ta tests environment-friendly Prius on local roads

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ted pollution and maximize fuel efficiency.

Combination

The Prius is powered by a combination of electric and conventional internal combustion engines. Either the engine or the battery or both can power the vehicle, depending on conditions. This feature gives the vehicle the acceleration and power of a standard automobile, which has a larger gasoline-burning engine.

The Toyota Prius has an on-board computer that ensures its engine runs under the most efficient conditions.

The Prius is one of the first mass-produced hybrid electric vehicles in the world. The vehicle, which first went on sale in Japan in 1997, has won numerous awards in Europe, Japan and North America for its state-of-the-art automotive technology.

Local road conditions

Units of the Prius were recently brought to the Philippines so that the cars can be tested under local road and traffic conditions. Prominent personalities from the government, business community, media and entertainment industry were tapped to test-drive the Prius and give feedback regarding its performance and features.

The ongoing road tests of the Prius have so far generated positive feedback. Toyota's hybrid car was commended for its reduced fuel-consumption technology and its capability to reduce pollution emitted to the environment.

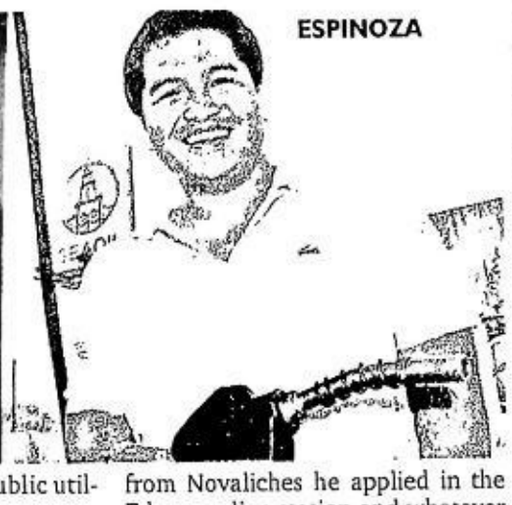
Hybrid cars such as the Toyota Prius have a significant impact on the environment. These vehicles have been proven to reduce air pollution emissions by reducing fuel consumption. Driving tests indicate that total air pollution of carbon monoxide are significantly cleaner for hybrid cars compared to conventional vehicles.

e first mass-produced hybrid electric vehicles in the world.

From green card holder to gas station owner

OTHER PEOPLE HIS AGE WOULD have migrated to the United States after receiving a green card, but Ronald Espinoza is different. A registered alien or green card holder in America, he could go to the United States anytime and even work there, yet he chooses to remain in the country and manage his own gas stations.

At 28, Espinoza is one of the youngest franchisees of Seaoil Philippines, the country's first independent oil company and the first to specialize in biofuels. Espinosa owns not just one Seaoil franchise but three.



ESPINOZA

Gas station business

Espinoza entered the gas station business in 2004. After returning from the United States, this University of the Philippines engineering graduate got interested in becoming an entrepreneur. It was then that his cousin recommended getting a Seaoil franchise.

After speaking with his cousin, Espinoza called up Seaoil and he was immediately given the option whether to put up a new station or take over an existing one. Espinosa chose the latter and he picked a station in Novaliches, near TV station ABC 5. It was strategically located—in front of a market—with plenty of public utility jeepneys passing by.

Biggest challenge

Espinoza underwent a one-month training course with his crew at Seaoil Academy located inside the company's E. Rodriguez Avenue station in Quezon City. "The operation is very simple," Espinoza observed. "The biggest challenge is how to hire and keep good people," he said.

The young station owner liked his business so much that barely five months after taking over Seaoil Novaliches, he got another station, this time a bigger one on Edsa, near ABS-CBN. Everything he learned from Novaliches he applied in the Edsa gasoline station and whatever extra money he earned from Edsa he invested in Novaliches. Within a year, both stations were already doing well.

Another opportunity came to Espinoza last year when he was offered the dealership of Seaoil's Pasig Boulevard station. Espinoza grabbed it and began operating his third gasoline station. With this recent franchise acquisition, Espinoza joins the ranks of Seaoil dealers enjoying the benefits of having multiple gasoline stations generating highly profitable revenue streams from ethanol-blended gasoline, biodiesel and Auto LPG.

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New fuel additive promises to cut consumption

By Charles E. Buban

AS PRICES OF FUEL CONtinue to rise throughout the world, it's only logical for motorists to look for ways to cut their consumption or at least make every liter of fuel count.

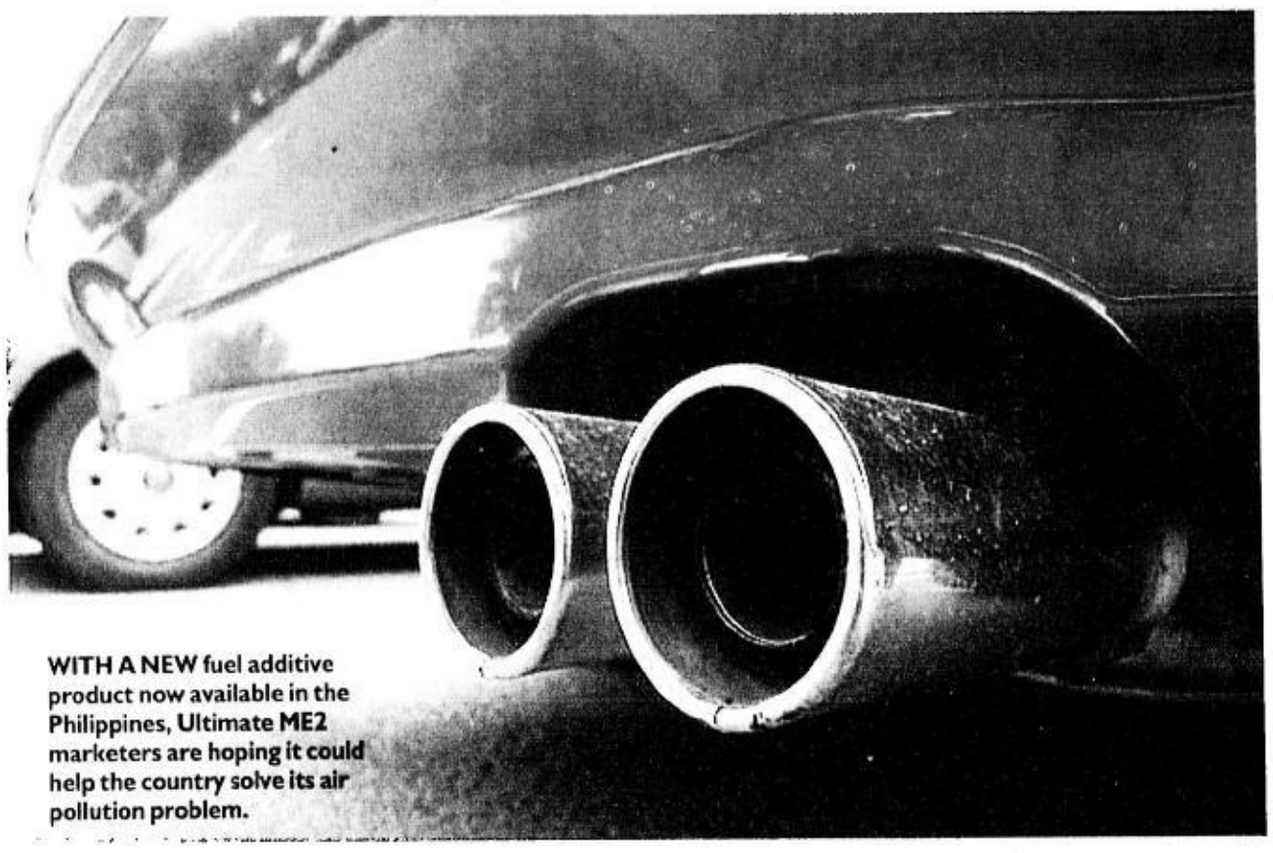
Options abound including changing their vehicle's air filter, air intake as well as the exhaust system to the more inexpensive alternative of just checking each of the tire's pressure and make sure they are properly and equally inflated.

Of course, there's also the use of fuel additive that motorists often resort to since they are relatively inexpensive and they only have to pour it into their fuel tank.

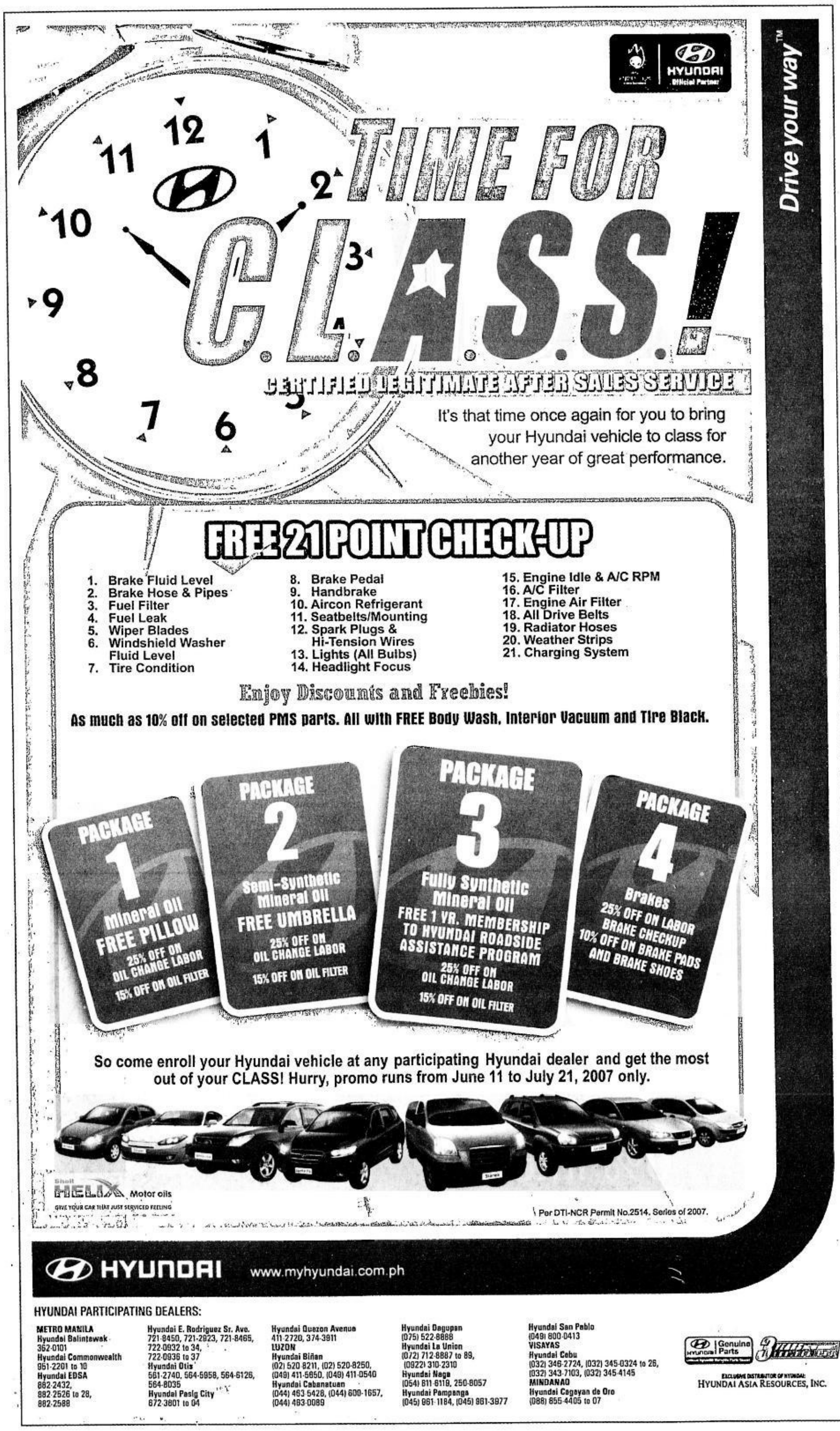
"The problem is not all additives are created equal and more often, no testing has been made to assure they really work,'" said Dori James O'Neill, president and CEO of EYI International, a US-based company that recently launched a fuel additive product here.

O'Neill explained that the Ultimate ME2 is basically an environment-friendly, fuel-en-

NEW FUEL/ B2-3



WITH A NEW fuel additive product now available in the Philippines, Ultimate ME2 marketers are hoping it could help the country solve its air pollution problem.



HYUNDAI VEHICLES NAMED "BEST CARS FOR FAMILIES"

The American Automobile Association (AAA), a recognized, non-profit automobile organization in the United States that provides services to its members such as roadside assistance, safety and legislative programs, vehicle repair and maintenance, and travel services; and Parents magazine, named the 2007 Hyundai Santa Fe and Entourage as two of 2007's "Best Cars for Families."

The 15-vehicle list, now in its fifth year, appears with detailed reviews of each model in the April issue of Parents magazine. AAA's auto-safety experts and Parents' editors - who understand the wants and needs of families - created a list of sedans, economy cars, vans, SUVs, and crossovers they felt perfectly met everyday family demands.

According to AAA/ Parents' judges, "The Santa Fe is packed with safety technology to protect your little ones, but the modest price tag leaves something for their college funds. Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD) and side-impact and air bags are standard. Nice surprises include second-row A/C vents to keep your kids cool." After a road test with the Hyundai Santa Fe, Sally Lee, editor-in-chief of Parents magazine said, "I loved the easy-to-read instrument panel and the great storage space. Car seats were a breeze to install. It's a lot of car for the money -- and stylish too."

AAA/Parents' judges said, "No van has more standard safety features: Three-row side-curtain air bags, [electronic] stability control, and antilock brakes are all standard. So are the Entourage's three-zone climate-control system, power windows in the sliding doors, a flat-folding third row, and all the obligatory storage nooks. You may opt for power rear doors and tailgate, leather upholstery, and wood-grain accents, and still get the best value.

Hyundai Motor America is proud to accept recognition from these two organizations that offer helpful information and advice to better the lives of consumers. The Santa Fe and Entourage are great examples of Hyundai's continued commitment to providing affordable vehicles with standard life-saving technologies and convenience features that every family is looking for.

This commitment is being fulfilled in the Philippines by Hyundai's exclusive distributor in the country, Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI). The Hyundai Santa Fe and other top-notch Hyundai models are available in all certified HARI dealerships nationwide.

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LIFESTYLE

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

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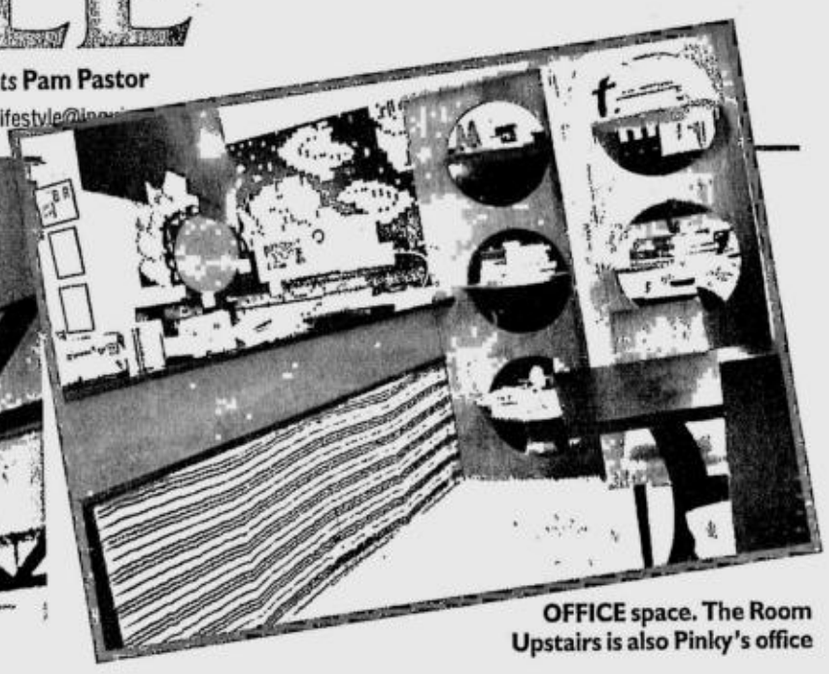
FRIDAY FUN. The Corrs-loving band Kaze at The Room Upstairs



OFFICE space. The Room Upstairs is also Pinky's office

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NOW OPEN! BINONDO BRANCH

Chin Chin Gutierrez

By Pam Pastor

The Room Upstairs is not just a hangout, but many cool things rolled into one—a design showroom, a coffee shop, a retail store and an events venue

YOU CAN CALL THE ROOM Upstairs a dream come true. "I wanted to create a showroom for my designs and to have a design studio," says Pinky Peralta, who has been an interior designer since 1995.

She found a beautiful space in LRI Building on Nicanor Garcia Street, Makati, but realized that it was a little too big. She then decided to ask her husband Ari to help her turn the place into something more.

"I asked Ari if he was interested in putting up a coffee shop."

That's how The Room Upstairs was born. Now, the place, which opened late last year, has become so much more than just a design showroom and a coffee shop—it is also a retail store and an events venue.

The pieces of furniture and artworks you see inside The Room Upstairs are all for sale. During the day, clients come in to meet with Pinky (she has an office at the back) while other people go there to hang out, drink coffee, eat and read books.

Sometimes, the lines blur. Clients end up hanging out and coffee shop patrons become clients. "One lady who walked in just to have coffee ended up buying furniture and later on asking me to design her house," says Pinky.

Companies have started paying attention as well, with some of them booking the place for corporate meetings, exclusive parties and product launches.

"We think they like the intimate setting," adds Pinky.

Art exhibits and photography sessions have also been held at The Room Upstairs. The group exhibit of Jucar Raquepo, Jose Guillermo Naval and Vinita Karim called "Shifting Landscapes of Forms" is running at The Room Upstairs until July 21. And because Ari and Pinky want to turn it into a total arts venue, they've introduced live music as well. On Friday nights, the place transforms into a hot nightspot, with musical acts like Nyko Maca and Drip entertaining the crowd.

For Pinky and Ari, The Room Upstairs isn't just a business venture. "It's a way for us to work together, to have our passions combined in one place."

Pinky uses The Room Upstairs to show her design skills, while Ari, a businessman who

ONE/C2

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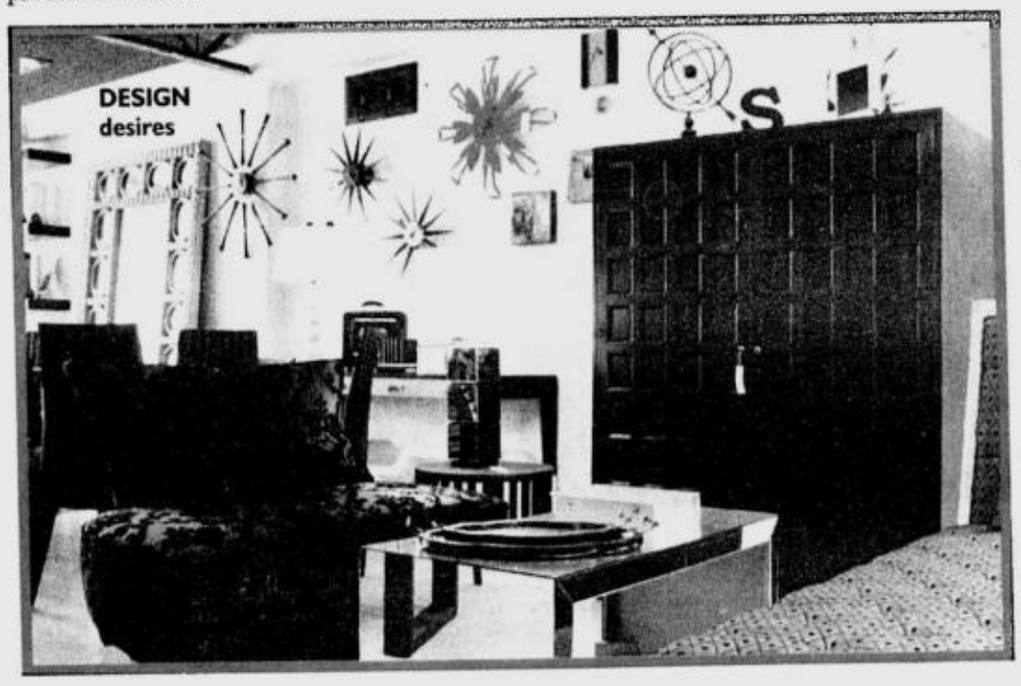

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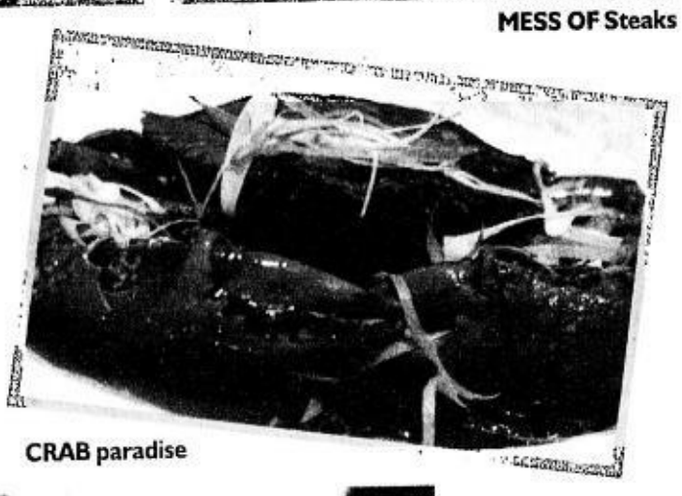
MESS OF Steaks



CRAB paradise

THE STAFF of Hula Hula entertain guests with a hula dance

Island [food] fever

FRIED Kani Maki

SPAM Soba Maki

By Pam Pastor

SAY THE WORDS HAWAIIAN food and a lot of people think pineapples. Lots and lots of pineapples. But that is not the case at Hula Hula Seafood & Barbecue House. Although inspired by the island lifestyle, you will find more than just pineapples at this palate paradise.

The starters might leave you with no room for entrees—not with yummy Onion Rings and Calamari Totempoles, Coconut Shrimps, Island Nachos Platter and Crispy Salt and Pepper Shrimp.

Lilo and Stitch would feel right at home at Hula Hula

HULA HULA offers al fresco dining too.

The Happy Island Rolls are a treat for sushi lovers. Our favorites include Spam Soba Maki (slices of spam with *soba* noodles, cucumber and mangoes rolled in *nori*), Adobo Maki (*maki* style bits of pork in *adobo* sauce, rolled in Japanese rice with mangoes and cucumber), Fried Kani Maki (*kani*, mango, cheese) and Fruit Fantasy Roll (mango, kiwi, apple and *kani* rolled in *nori*).

Bestsellers include Mess of Steaks (combination of US beef cuts: *yakiniku*, rib fingers, short plate), The Big Foot (12 inches of tender juicy pork BBQ) and Honey Soy Chicken Butterfly (one whole glazed butterflied spring chicken served on tumeric rice).

Bigger groups can enjoy the Luau Feasts—like the Balinese Feast Luau (pork, tuna and chicken sate, *nasi goreng, gado-gado* salad and salt and pepper red snapper) and Kilauea Luau Feast (*yakiniku*, crablets in bacon, vegetable *teppanyaki*, turmeric and *shayu* rice and steaming hot *bangus sisig*), which is named after the most active Hawaiian volcano.

Other must-try items on the menu include mussels and crabs cooked in various island-inspired ways, curry plates and the seafood rice.

As if the food is not enough of a treat, Hula Hula's staff occasionally surprise diners by performing Hula dances.

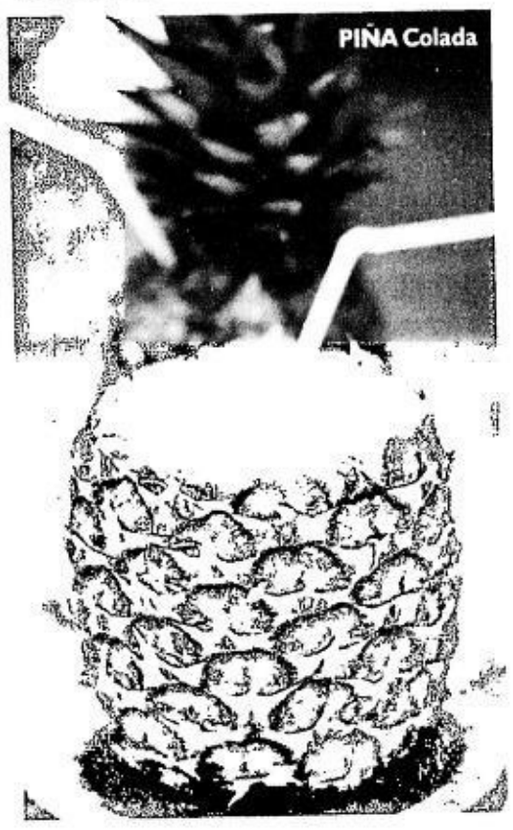
Good food, entertainment, a relaxed atmosphere—island-loving people would feel right at home at Hula-Hula. Maybe even Lilo and Stitch.

Hula Hula Seafood & Barbecue House is located at the ground floor of Shangri-La Mall. Call 9103218.

THE RESTO offers a dose of good seafood.

LUAU feast

THE BIG foot



PIÑA Colada

One floor up

From page C1

also dabbles in web design, uses it to share his passion for food with other people. Ari believes the time he spent studying in France exposed him to good food. He then applied what he learned while he was studying in Canada and had to cook for himself.

All the items on The Room Upstairs' menu are his own recipes.

Some of the bestsellers are the Open-Face Roast Beef Sandwich (roast beef, mushrooms, sautéed onions, cream sauce and mozzarella cheese, P170); Smoked Milkfish Sandwich (smoked *bangus* pate topped with cucumbers, tomatoes and lettuce, P100); Spicy Asian Spaghetti with Chicken (chicken, tomatoes, onion, garlic, basil, chilies, olive oil, peanuts and parmesan cheese, P190); Spaghetti with Italian Sausage (Italian sausage stewed in tomato and cream sauce garnished with mozzarella cheese, P190).

Ari also recommends that first-timers try the meatballs, either as a sandwich or with pasta.

Ari's favorites from the menu include the Roasted Eggplant Panini (roasted eggplant, olives, marinara sauce with mozzarella and parmesan) while Pinky likes the Spicy Asian Spaghetti and Spaghetti Putanesca (tomatoes, olives, capers, anchovies, garlic, basil and parmesan cheese). Ari is also proud of the resto's fine selection of wines and the freshly brewed passion fruit iced tea.

Things never get boring in The Room Upstairs, even food-wise. "Our lunch and dinner menu constantly changes," says Ari.

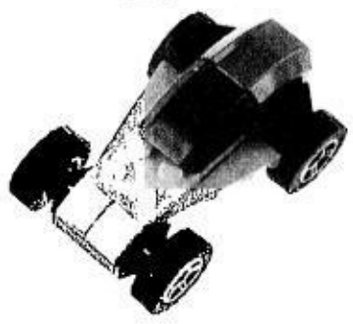
Whether you visit The Room Upstairs for design advice, some shopping, a dose of art, coffee, food or music, there's no doubt about it, this place is worth a visit—or 10.

The Room Upstairs at 2/F, LRI Building, Nicanor Garcia St. Makati, is open from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Mondays to Thursdays, and Saturdays; and 10 a.m.-12 midnight on Fridays. Visit www.theroomupstairs.com.ph.

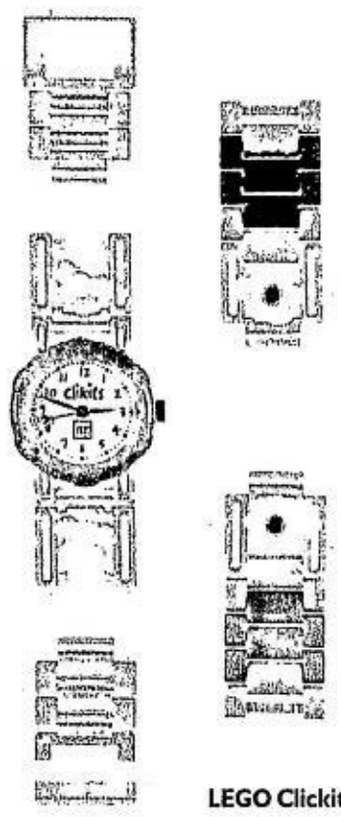
E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

MORE than just a cool hangout, The Room Upstairs is a dream come true for its owners.

Keeping time for school



LEGO Racer



LEGO Clickits Hearts copy

ACE, THE NEW TOMMY Hilfiger watch, is a combination of sporty and chic. A sparkling Swarovski crystal "T" is integrated into the watch design, embellishing the bracelet or strap where it attaches to the case. The white dial with minute track running along the outer edge is enhanced by a mother-of-pearl center zone detailed with the Tommy Hilfiger logo and flag.

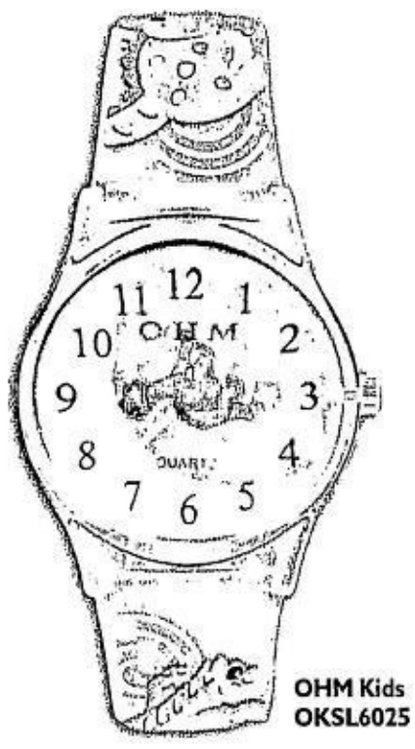
The brand is also engraved on the stainless steel bezel. Ace is offered on a polished stainless steel bracelet accented by enamel center links in black, white and pink. It is also available in calfskin strap.

The Remi watch, meanwhile, has a red dot that determines the hour while the revolving center disc with the red arrow shows the minutes. This comes in either black or white dial, both with Storm logo with moving color strips above.

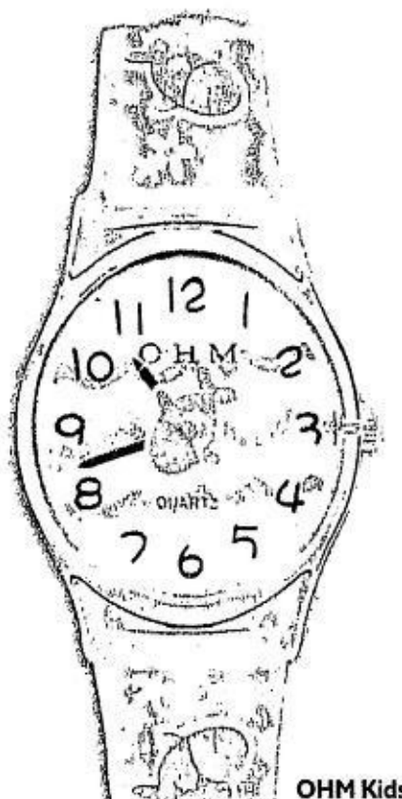
Tissot offers an innovation with the retrograde movement now gracing the popular PRS516 chrono timepiece. It is an unusual chronograph display divided into 30 seconds, with the sweeping second hand working anticlockwise from 9 o'clock to return to its place automatically after a time lapse of two hours. High precision mixed with cutting-edge design and exclusive technology marks this sports timepiece.

From Red Square to your wrist, Vostok-Europe brings the finest in automatic timekeeping. The Vostok Expedition series takes its inspiration from the Expedition-Trophy, which is the longest winter off-road race in the world.

These watches are available in all No Curfew, Gift Gate, SM Department Stores, Rustan's Department Stores, Landmark Department Stores, Robinson's Department Stores and Sport Shops.



OHM Kids
OKSL6025



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Music to go

By Mark Bonifacio
2bU! Correspondent

'It Won't Be Soon Before Long'

Maroon 5
(MCA Music)

About: Maroon 5's follow-up to their highly successful debut "Songs About Jane," which produced the hits "Harder To Breathe," "She Will Be Loved," "This Love" and "Sunday Morning."

Stand-out tracks: "Makes Me Wonder," "Won't Go Home Without You," "Nothing Lasts Forever," "Wake up Call"

Buy it because: Maroon 5 makes a strong comeback with this album, which combines pop-rock tunes with some danceable and Sting-inspired tracks but still within the signature sound that has endeared the band to listeners. With lots of potential hits, this CD is worth your money and is sure worth the long wait.

'Paula DeAnda'

Paula DeAnda
(Sony BMG Music)

About: The debut album from the 16-year-old Latina-American is described in her bio as "filled with future hits, showcasing her skills as both a premiere vocalist and talented songwriter." DeAnda contributed six of the CD's 13 cuts.

Stand-out tracks: "Walk Away," "When It Was Me," "Doing Too Much," "Easy"

Buy it because: This big voiced RnB newbie is one promising act. Her singles "Doing Too Much," "Walk Away (Remember Me)" and "When It Was Me" have become some of the most requested songs in local pop stations. The album evokes a young Selena with a little bit of soul.

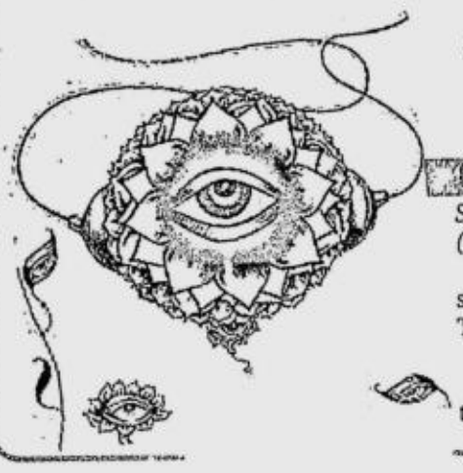
'Because I Love It'

Amerie
(Sony BMG Music)

About: Amerie's third album, which she all wrote and arranged. Has elements of '70s soul, '80s New Wave, hip-hop and live instrumentation.

Stand-out tracks: "Take Control," "Crush," "Crazy Wonderful"

Buy it because: If you prefer a sexy pop R&B album, this should be it. "Crush," especially, shows great hit potential. Amerie, a Korean-American singer/actress, shows pride in her Asian lineage in her collaboration with Korean artist Se7en on "Take Control," which is included as a bonus track.



'Delocate'

Stonefree
(Warner Music)

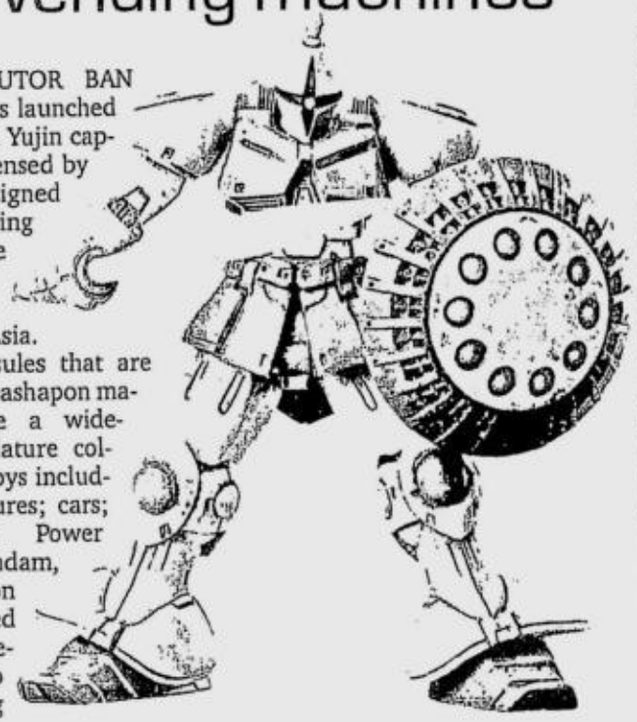
About: Stonefree's sophomore album after "Hibiscus." The album is described as "the band's personal challenge to itself as a group to go beyond their previous successful formula for good music." The band members also hope to silence critics who say they are just another *pogi* rock band.

Stand-out tracks: "Anghel," "Tidal Waves," "Tadhana"

Buy it because: There are only 10 tracks, but the album is still worth listening to because of the band's improved sound. Definitely not *pogi* rock at all.

NARUTO

Enjoy capsule toys from vending machines



TOY DISTRIBUTOR BAN Kee Trading has launched the Bandai and Yujin capsule toys, dispensed by specially designed capsule vending machines made popular in Japan and other parts of Asia.

Bandai capsules that are dispensed by Gashapon machines feature a wide-range of miniature collectibles and toys including action figures; cars; robots from Power Rangers, Gundam, Naruto, Dragon Ball Z, Masked Rider, Pokemon, Hello Kitty and Frog Style.

The capsule machines of Yujin are called Gacha. They dispense capsule toys featuring different Disney merchandise such as "Toy Story," "Winnie the Pooh," "Mickey Mouse & Friends," "Lion King," "Lilo & Stitch" and other collections like Sanrio, Hello Kitty, Super Mario, Tomica cars, Real insects and Gold fish.

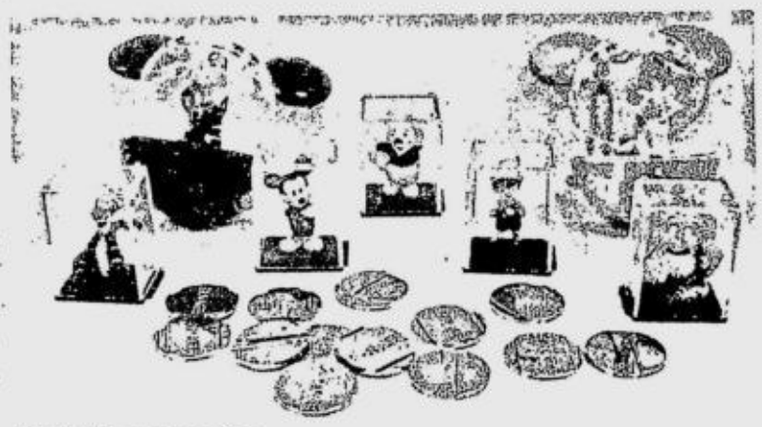
Collections are easy to complete with the very affordable price of the tokens—at ₱50 each.

GUNDAM

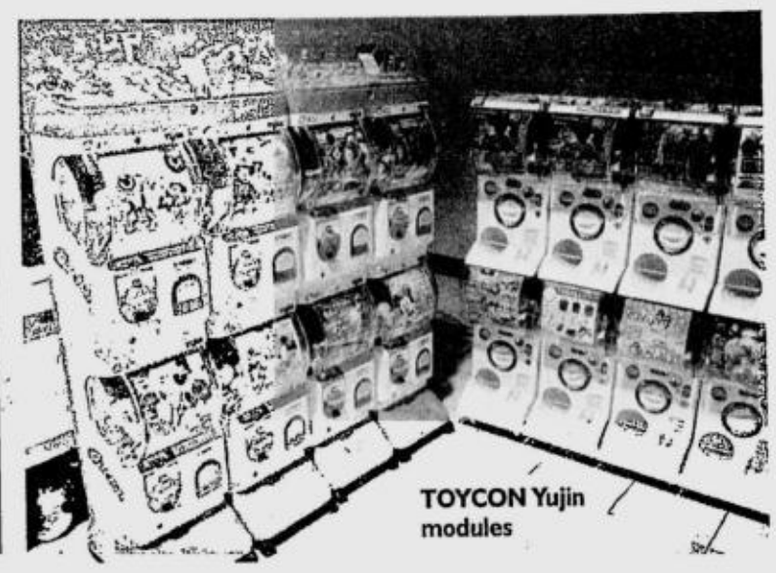
MASK Rider Black

GEKIRANGER

TOKENS and cars



TOKENS and capsules



TOYCON Yujin modules

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EMBROIDERED shirt, P1195; embroidered jeans, P1995

SHOP SHOOTERS

Solo and loving it

The Shop Shooters invade Solo's new store in Trinoma

Story on page D2

OPTIC print tee, P745; white shorts with braided belt, P495

TREASURE trove of fashion finds

MOTOROLA

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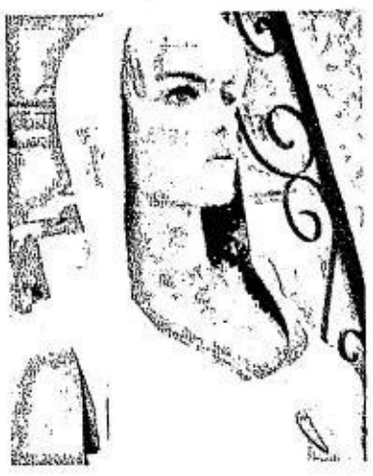
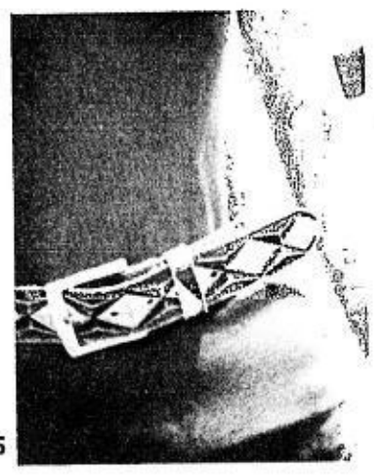
SOLO has found a new home in TriNoma mall.

FELT graphic tee, P575; black shorts, P495



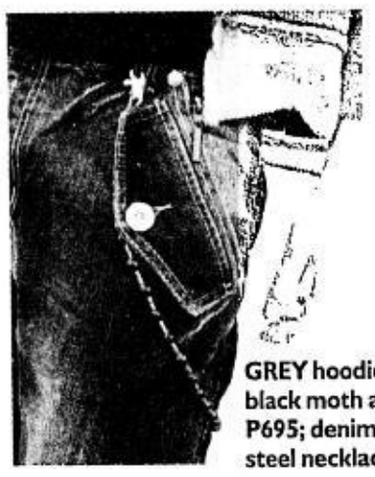
HOODIE, P695; tank top, P325; skinny jeans, P1,295; necklace, P245

COLLARED tee, P575; shorts, P675; belt, P945



TUNIC top with silver foil, P595; skinny jeans, P1,295; necklace, P395

GRAPHIC tee, P695; skinny jeans, P1,995; necklace, P395



GREY hoodie with felt print, P1,295; black moth appliqué graphic tee, P695; denim jeans, P1,995; stainless steel necklace, P395

GRAPHIC shirt, P595; skinny jeans, P1,295

TOOTHBRUSH print graphic shirt, P695; skinny jeans, P1,995; necklace, P395

JACKET, P1,295; graphic tee, P595; studded jeans, P1,995

GRAPHIC shirt, P595; skinny jeans, P1,295; black bag, P695

SHOP SHOOTERS

Solo and loving it

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by August dela Cruz

GRAPHIC tee, P595; corded jeans, P1,995; messenger bag, P595; belt, P945

THE OPENING OF A NEW mall is always an exciting experience for serious shoppers.

It's a chance to mark a new territory, explore a maze of retail goodness, discover new stores and brands, and rekindle relationships with familiar ones.

That's what the 2bU! Shop Shooters did when they invaded Solo's TriNoma branch with owner Sheree Gotuaco. We found a treasure trove of cool shirts, hot denims and other major finds.

Our visit to Solo told us one thing: Local brands are cranking the creative machine and are churning out really good stuff, and it's up to us to keep spreading the gospel.

Visit Solo at TriNoma and at your other favorite malls.

New fashion benchmark

RAFAEL Rosell

EXTRA-LONG tees are hot.

TOP FASHION BRAND Bench recently unveiled its newest fashions at its flagship store in Ayala TriNoma in Quezon City.

The TriNoma branch covers a total floor area of 1,050 sq m, divided into chic little boutiques that flow into and from each other for maximum shopping comfort.

Each section is dedicated to a particular line, such as Bench, HerBench, Bench Time, Bench Body and Bench Overhauled denims.

Setting the tone for back-to-school shopping are such details as the cool tabletop displays; extra-large frosted bulbs as drop-down pendant lighting; and line-specific statements boldly stenciled on the walls (for example, "Frosh" for Basics and "Sorority" for HerBench).

The Bench show featured the latest in sporty day and night wear. The styles were simple, straightforward and striking, such as colorful gumball shirts, fruity graphic tees and not-so-basic neutrals.

Of note were the black and metallic striped extra-long tees.

The glittering array of quirky basics took turns on a red runway that ran down the new store's center aisle, forking into two ramps flanking either side of the entrance.

Modeling the line were the brand's official endorsers—Diether Ocampo, Angelica Panganiban, Jay Cuenca, Alessandra De Rossi, Rafael Rosell, Mikee Lee and John Mullally.

Launched during the opening of the new store was "Bench Model Search," a new reality-based TV show that covers the nationwide campaign to look for the next top Bench model. The series starts July 29, 10:30 p.m., on ABS-CBN. For more details, log on to www.benchmodelsearch.com.

DIETHER Ocampo

FUNCTIONAL and trendy fashion by Bench

SIMPLE and easy-to-wear pieces from Samuel and Kevin

Chic retro for forward-looking young people

CHIC RETRO CASUAL characterizes the latest collection by Samuel and Kevin, which has just opened its flagship store—its third branch—on the second level, Building B of SM Megamall.

"For this season, the fashion inspiration was derived from retro casual and it's ideal for the school season because the style is a throwback to the days when fashion was simple yet easy to wear," said Samuel and Kevin CEO Jong See.

"Our latest collection offers users the convenience and versatility of wearing a single piece into multiple styles. That's not just being fashion-forward but it also affords consumers great value for money," See added.

The collection includes pigment dye tees, linen cargo pants, printed tees layered with lacy camisole, indigo wash denim capris, camo cargo shorts, and slim jeans with charmed steel belt.

Worldwide, Samuel and Kevin has more than 600 outlets serving the fashion needs of young people.

GIORDANO uses fashion to help create a world without strangers.

Fashion show by global brand

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1981, Giordano has successfully positioned itself as a cross-cultural brand catering to the young, stylishly simple set. Supported by aggressive retailing and consistent focus on simplicity, quality and service, the brand has expanded its international operations to a network of over 1,800 retail outlets in Greater China, Southeast Asia, Japan, Korea, Middle East, Australia, India, Canada, and, recently, in the United States.

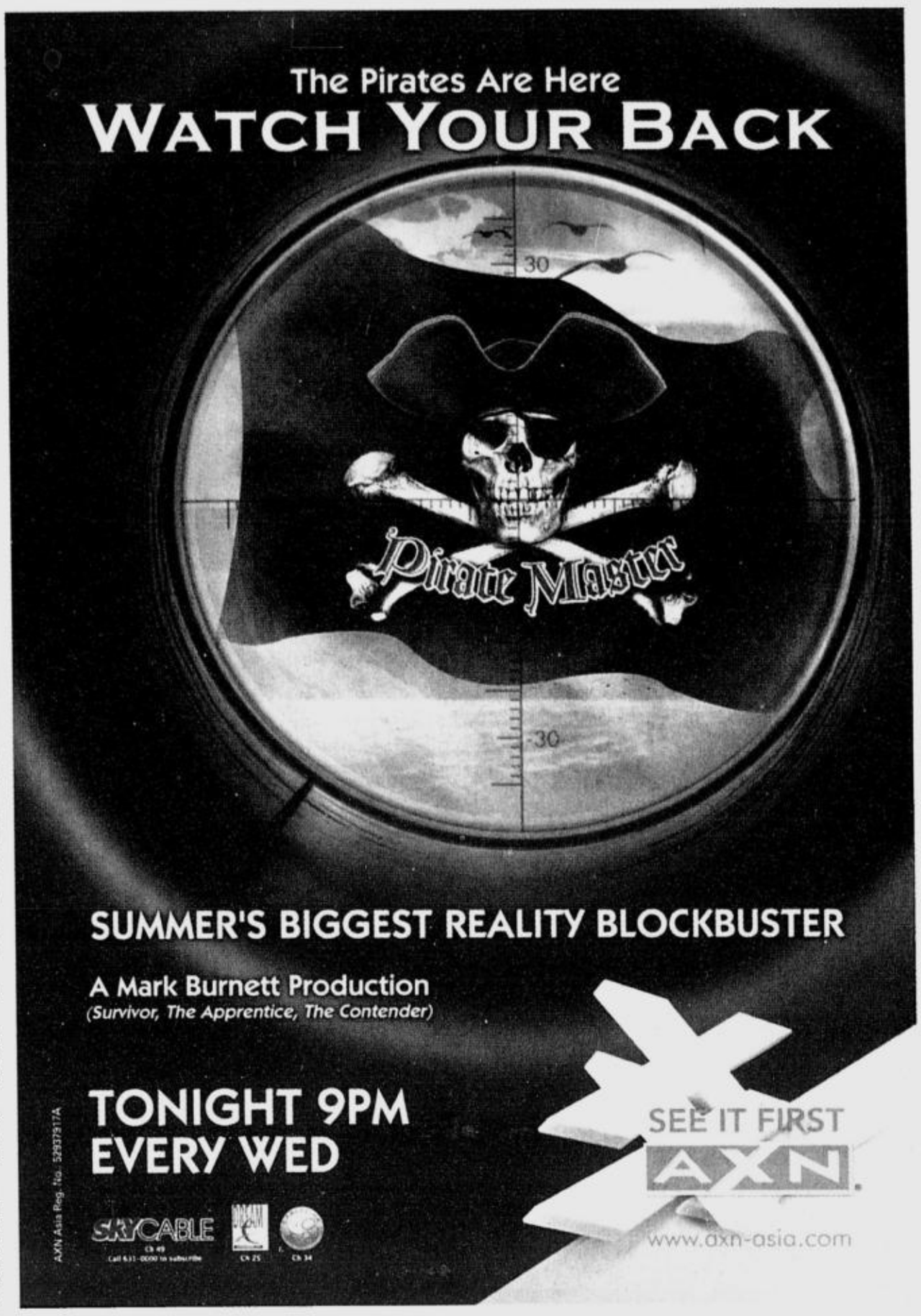
Giordano has 36 retail shops and five sub-franchisees in the Philippines, and is expected to open two more by the end of the year, so that it would have a total of 43 stores nationwide.

Giordano will show its world-brand status in the "World Without Strangers" fashion show, featuring its fall denim collection, on June 30, 6 p.m., at the Ayala TriNoma Mall.

As a world brand, Giordano has no center, knows no natural borders, is cross-cultural and owned by all consumers. Wherever you are in the world, Giordano is the brand for you.

First launched in South Asia, Giordano's campaign aims to issue a message that is bold, yet friendly, and timely for an age of cultural amalgamation and globalization.

"World Without Strangers" is a call for solidarity among fellow human beings, spreading a message of peace, acceptance and open-mindedness—personal watchwords designed to remind one to step outside the box, explore the world and experience what life has to offer.



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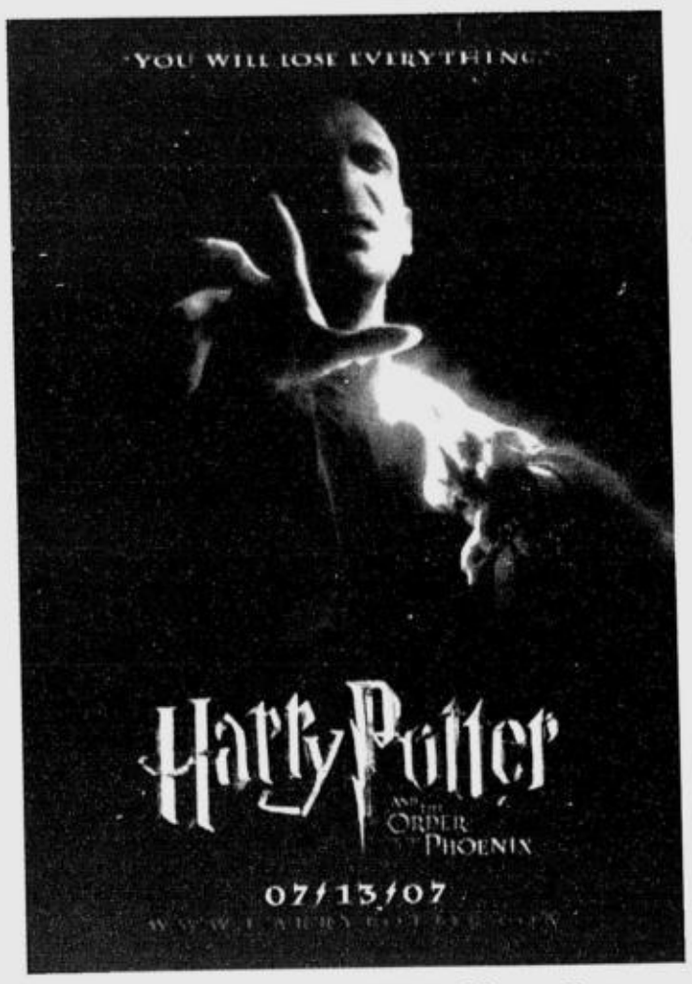
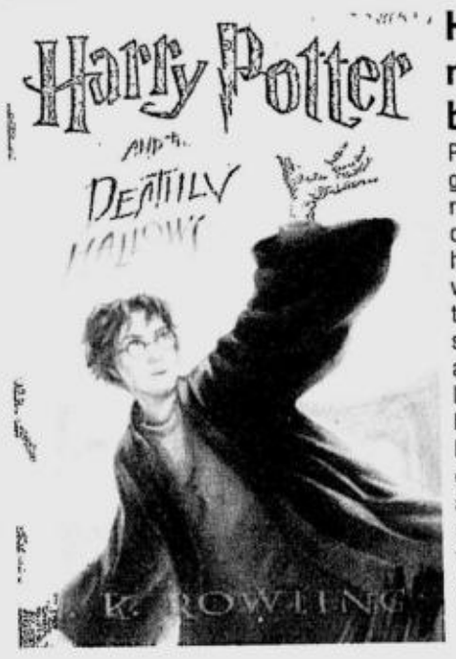
THERMOMETER

Potter-mania, meet Optimus Prime

'Transformers'

Whether or not you followed the cartoon series in the '80s and '90s, "Transformers" the movie will surely give you an adrenaline fix. The awesome CGI animation and comic timing of up-and-coming star Shia LaBeouf are an unbeatable combination. We heard that some audiences actually applauded at the end of the movie, as if they were watching a play. We promise it's not just another boring cartoon remake.





Harry Potter movie and book

Potter fans can finally get their fix as the "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" movie hits theaters today, while the final installation of the seven-book series, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," will arrive at bookstores on July 21. Finally, we'll get to find out who RAB is, if Ron and Hermione will ever get together, and who will emerge as the final survivor—Harry or Voldemort.

Relaunch of Route 196

We love unpretentious places that offer good food and great entertainment, which is why we've been loving Route 196 (formerly known as Inihaw Republic) in Katipunan. And bands obviously feel the same way, too. Just these past few weeks, we've gone there to watch great musical acts from Juan Pablo Dream, The Dawn, Hannah Romawac and Paramita to Kakoy and Johnnoy, The Spaceflower Show and The Ronnies. The garlic and cheese pizza and *tinapa* rolls are reason enough to go. Drinks are crazy cheap, too. Visit http://coolestbar.multiply.com.

PHOTOS BY RAERA ABELLA

Discovery Shores Boracay

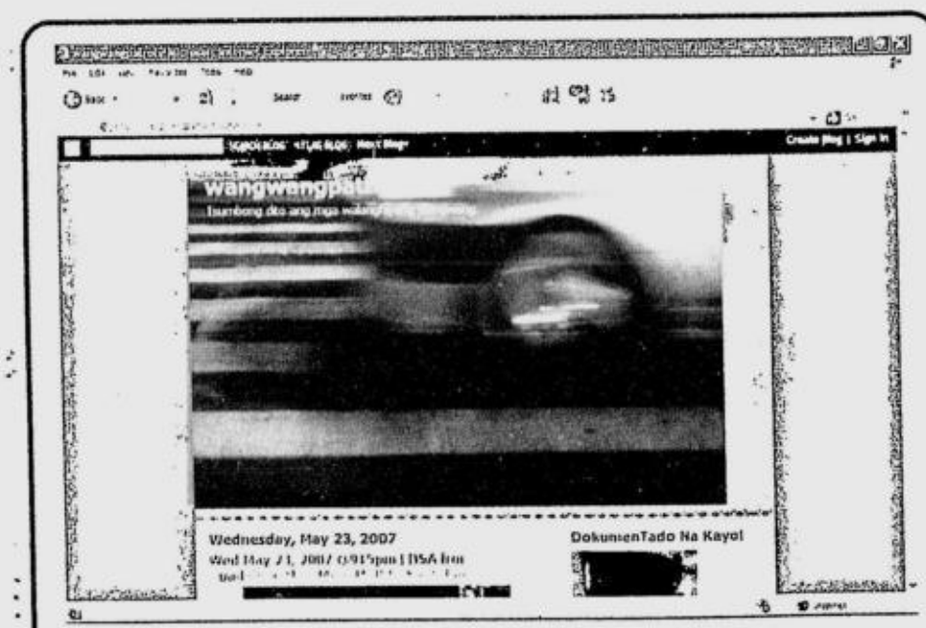
Ask anyone who's stayed there—it's an awesome place to stay in Boracay. If you love hopping from restaurant to restaurant for good eats or hanging out on the shore with a drink but hate the noise and the drunken revelers, Discovery Shores is the place for you. Situated at the far end of Station 1, the place offers a glimpse of a quieter, more peaceful Bora. We also love the excellent service, great eats and ultramodern accommodations (each room has a flat-screen TV and an iPod dock).

Musicians making it big on MySpace

Musicians who normally wouldn't be able to catch the attention of giant international record labels because they don't have the right connections or don't have droppable last names have started getting airtime thanks to MySpace and YouTube. We love how the Internet has become this generation's great equalizer.

UAAP Season 70

It's the start of another UAAP season, and De La Salle University is showing all signs of a strong comeback after a year-long suspension by ripping apart the UP Fighting Maroons in the opening game. However, while we love watching our favorite basketball teams, it's time to wrench our attention off the hoops. It's not the only UAAP sport, after all. This year, try to support the women's teams and other sports such as badminton, fencing, judo, chess and softball.



Wang wang weirdos

Don't you just hate people who use their sirens to bully people in traffic? For a long time it felt like there was nothing anyone could do but gripe and resist the urge to hurl stones at their windshields. But now you can report these weirdos through RockEd's WangWang Patrol. Visit wangwangpatrol.blogspot.com.

Paris Hilton

At first it was funny—we enjoyed poking fun at her every time she acted like a spoiled brat on "The Simple Life." Then tabloids glorified her every move and little girls started prancing around in miniskirts, saying "That's hot." The self-proclaimed heiress eventually went out of control in several wild parties, culminating in her arrest for drunk driving. After this, several international news channels spent hours covering her trial. But seriously, is she even worth the airtime?

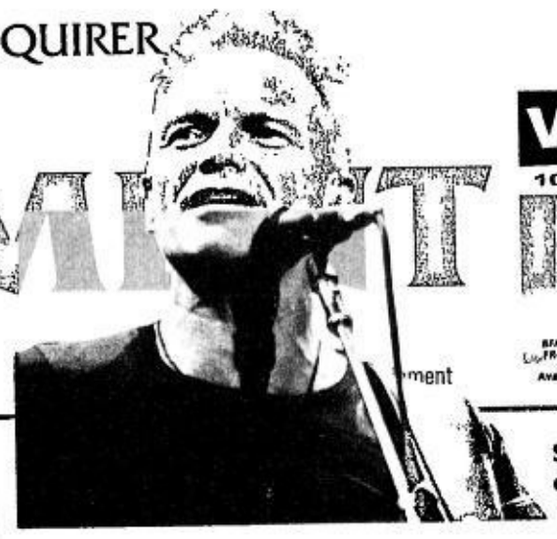
Wii

Not a gamer? The Wii might just make you change your mind. For one thing, the remote control-operated gaming set can be used by several players instead of the maximum two as offered by most games on the PS2. The Wii uses more interactive games, so instead of sitting around and staring blankly at the TV screen the whole day, you're assured of a lot more jumping and moving around when you play your favorite games.

ENTERTAINMENT

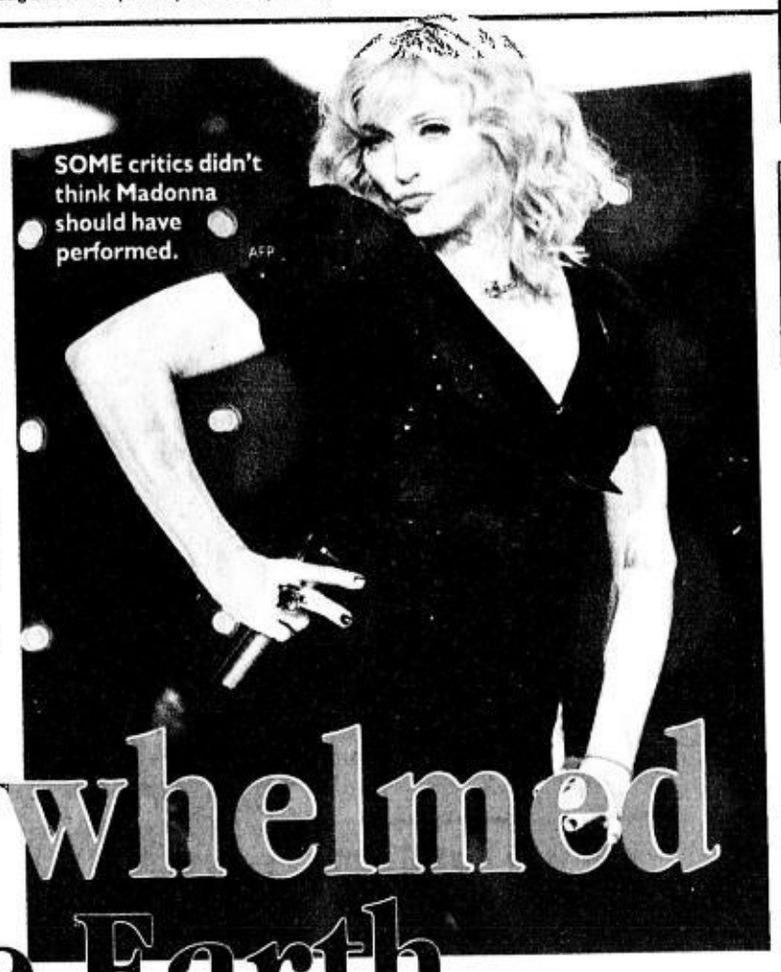
Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph



SUPERSTARS like Sting, a vigilant environmentalist turned up. REUTERS

GRAMMY winner John Mayer speaks with Tipper Gore at the New York concert. REUTERS



SOME critics didn't think Madonna should have performed. AFP

Underwhelmed by Live Earth

LONDON—THEY ROCKED THE WORLD, BUT as the cleanup at nine climate change gigs around the globe begins, many wonder if the galaxy of pop stars did much to change it.

US and British media were generally underwhelmed on Sunday by Live Earth, the mega-concert organized by former US vice president and green campaigner Al Gore, which, though built on the model of Live Aid and Live 8, created a less positive buzz.

In Germany, however, newspapers were more upbeat about Saturday's gigs designed to pressure leaders to sign a new treaty by 2009 that would cut global warming pollution by 90 percent in rich nations and more than half worldwide by 2050.

Several articles examined the green credentials of artists on the day, including Madonna, whose annual "carbon footprint" was estimated at around 100 times the average Briton's.

The News of the World tabloid, Britain's

UNDERWHELMED/ E4

JON Bon Jovi was a crowd favorite. REUTERS

DID YOU KNOW...

Sexy Kat

KATRINA HALILI has topped FHM magazine's 2007 sexiest list in the Philippines for the second consecutive year. Angel Locsin was a close second.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

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3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 HARRY POTTER 5
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 indieSine: TULI
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 DIE HARD 4
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2 TIYANAKS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 DIE HARD 4
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6 HARRY POTTER 5
7 TRANSFORMERS

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Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

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2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 DIE HARD 4
5 DIE HARD 4
6 HARRY POTTER 5
7 HARRY POTTER 5
8 TIYANAKS

NOVALICHES

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3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 HARRY POTTER 5
6 TIYANAKS

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

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2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 DIE HARD
4 TRANSFORMERS

STA. ROSA

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2 HARRY POTTER 5
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS

LIPA

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4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS

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2 TIYANAKS
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4
5 HARRY POTTER 5

IMUS

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2 HARRY POTTER 5
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4 DIE HARD 4
5 BUG
6 TIYANAKS

ANGELES

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER 5

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3 DIE HARD 4

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6 HARRY POTTER 5

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3 HARRY POTTER 5
4 RESERVE
5 DIE HARD 4
6 TRANSFORMERS

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4 DIE HARD 4
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HARRY POTTER - 5

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS
HARRY POTTER - 5

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Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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1 HARRY POTTER - 5
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3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 DIE HARD 4.0

STARMALL

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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) TRANSFORMERS
5 RESERVED

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www.clickthecity.com.ph
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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 HARRY POTTER - 5
4 DIE HARD 4.0

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4.0

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3 (DTS) HARRY POTTER - 5
4 (DOLBY DTS) HARRY POTTER - 5
5 (DOLBY DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
6 (DOLBY SDDS) TRANSFORMERS
7 (DOLBY DOLBY) DIE HARD 4.0
8 (DTS DTS) TIYANAKS
9 (DTS DTS) DIE HARD 4.0
10 (DTS DTS) TRANSFORMERS

Blue Wave MALL/CINEMA

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

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3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
4 (DOLBY) TRANSFORMERS

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
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5 TRANSFORMERS

MARKETPLACE

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3 TRANSFORMERS
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Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

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2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 DIE HARD 4.0

Center Mall Cinema

Bagulo Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Bagulo City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 HARRY POTTER - 5

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

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2 DIE HARD 4.0
3 (DTS DTS) HARRY POTTER - 5
4 TRANSFORMERS

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

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3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
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CINEMA 2000

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3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5
4

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3 (DTS) RESERVED
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3 (DOLBY) HARRY POTTER - 5

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2 DIE HARD 4.0
3 (DOLBY) TIYANAKS
4 (DTS) TRANSFORMERS

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(Mandel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 HARRY POTTER - 5
3 (DOLBY) DIE HARD 4.0

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 DIE HARD 4.0
2 HARRY POTTER - 5

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2 PLEASE CALL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

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2 TRANSFORMERS
3 PLEASE CALL
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3 (DTS) DIE HARD 4.0
4 HARRY POTTER - 5
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Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 HARRY POTTER - 5
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 TIYANAKS
4 DIE HARD 4.0

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

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CINEMA 4 — HARRY POTTER 5 — 10:20, 1:05 , 3:55 6:45 , 9:35 — GP
CINEMA 5 — HARRY POTTER 5 — 10:45 , 1:40 , 4:30 7:20 , 10:10 — GP

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	August 24 & 25 , 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM
T·E·A·T·R·I·N·O PROMENADE GREENHILLS	July 13 , 20 , 27 , 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
	August 8-9 , 15-16 , 22-23 , 29-30	Cerrudo Classico Classic	8:00 PM

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US Top 10

"Transformers' morphs into a money machine

LOS ANGELES—THE SHAPE-SHIFTING ROBOTS OF "Transformers" have taken on a new form: Huge piles of cash.

The sci-fi saga "Transformers," DreamWorks and Paramount's big-screen take on the Hasbro toys, debuted with $67.6 million in ticket sales in its first weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. That gave it $152.5 million since opening with preview screenings Monday night.

Biggest ever

If the weekend figures hold when final numbers are released Monday, that would give "Transformers" the biggest first week revenues ever for a nonsequel, surpassing the $151.6 million of 2002's "Spider-Man." But factoring in today's higher ticket prices, "Spider-Man" drew more people in its first week, about $26.1 million, compared to $22.5 million for "Transformers."

The movie's striking visual effects and the Transformers brand—which debuted in the 1980s with toys, a TV show and an animated movie—proved irresistible for audiences, said Rob Moore, Paramount's head of worldwide marketing and distribution.

Unique, compelling

"Michael Bay created something visually that people hadn't seen before," Moore said. "When you look at a jet plane flying under a bridge then flipping and turning into a robot, those kinds of images people found incredibly unique and compelling."

"Transformers" also took in $93.6 million in 23 other countries where it has opened since June 28.

However, the overall domestic box office plunged. The top 12 movies took in $161.5 million, down 23 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" opened with what was then a record weekend of $135.6 million.

Another big one

"The good news is we've got another big one right around the corner with 'Harry Potter,'" said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box office tracker Media By Numbers. "We should be looking at a strong midsummer boost that'll hopefully carry through to the end of summer."

***

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC:

1) "Transformers," $67.6M; 2) "Ratatouille," $29M; 3) "Live Free or Die Hard," $17.4M; 4) "License to Wed," $10.4M; 5) "Evan Almighty," $8.1M; 6) "1408," $7.1M; 7) "Knocked Up," $5.2M; 8) "Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer," $4.15M; 9) "Sicko," $3.65M; 10) "Ocean's Thirteen," $3.5M. *AP*

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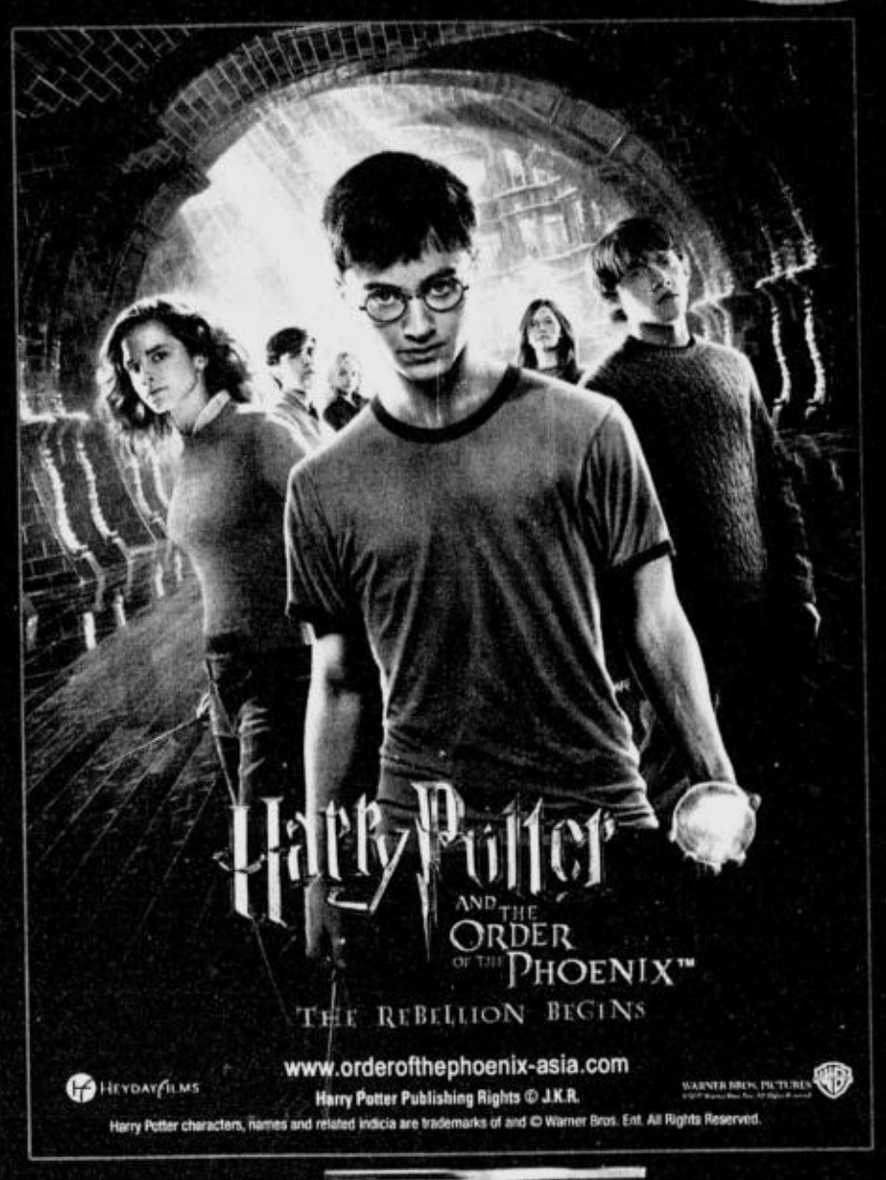

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HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 12:45,3:40,6:35,9:30	DIE HARD 4.0 PG13	HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX G 1:45,4:40,10:30

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2	HARRY POTTER 8:00, 11:25, 2:10, 5:05, 10:55 G	
3	HARRY POTTER 1:10, 4:05 G	
4	DIE HARD 4.0 11:30, 2:20, 5:20 PG-13	HARRY POTTER 11:25 G

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1 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 12:15, 3:10
2 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 11:15, 2:10, 5:05 DIE HARD 4 (PG-13) 10:55
3 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 12:45, 3:40, 9:30
4 HARRY POTTER: ORDER OF THE PHOENIX MTRCB GP 1:15, 4:10, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE TRANSFORMERS/ HARRY POTTER: (GP) 11.45am / (GP) 2.40, 5.35 DIE HARD (PG-13) 11.25pm

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GLORIETTA 1	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 DIE HARD 4.0
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	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 TRANSFORMERS	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX
GREENBELT 1	1 DIE HARD 4.0	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DIE HARD 4.0 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX		
	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 DIE HARD 4.0	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	3 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	4 DIE HARD 4.0
MARKET! MARKET!	1 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	2 DIE HARD 4.0		
	3 TRANSFORMERS	4 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	
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	5 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	6 HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX	7 THX HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX GUARANTEED SEATS	

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Ayala MUSEUM — Damian Domingo: The First Great Filipino Painter Exhibit - June 19 to Jan. 6, 2008; Pioneers of Philippine Art - June 15 to January 6, 2008. For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma — BARBIE BIRTHDAY BASH, July 1 (2PM & 4PM) at the Activity Center; HUMAN'S RICO BLANCO EXHIBIT, July 2 to 15 (Mall Hours) at the 1st Level Exhibit Area

Harry Potter AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX

HARRY POTTER & THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX" SCREENING SCHEDULES FOR JULY 11(WED.)

GLORIETTA 4 Cinema 1** - 11:30 am, 2:30 pm, 5:30, 8:30, 11:30 Cinema 2** - 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 Cinema 3* - 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 Cinema 6 - 1:00 pm, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 Cinema 7 - 12:30 pm, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30	GREENBELT 3 Cinema 1* - 11:30 am, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 11:30 Cinema 2* - 1:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 10:30 Cinema 3** - 12:00 nn, 3:00 pm, 6:00, 9:00, 12:00 Cinema 5** - 10:00 am, 1.00 pm, 4:00
GLORIETTA 1 Cinema 1 - 12:20 pm, 3:20, 6:20, 9:20 Cinema 2 - 12:50 pm, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50 Cinema 3 - 10:35 am, 1:35, 4:35, 7:35, 9:35	GREENBELT 1 Cinema 4 - 11:30 am, 2:30 pm, 5:30, 8:30
ALABANG TOWN CENTER Cinema 1* - 11:30 am, 2:15 pm, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 Cinema 2 - 12:00 nn, 2:45 pm, 5:30, 11:00 Cinema 3 - 1:45 pm, 4:30, 7:15 Cinema 5 - 1:15 pm, 4:00, 6:45, 10:00	MARKET! MARKET! Cinema 1** - 12:35 pm, 3:30, 6:25, 9:20 Cinema 4 - 1:05 pm, 4:00, 6:55, 9:50 Cinema 5 - 12:05 pm, 3:00, 6:55, 8:50 Cinema 6 - 11:35 am, 2:30, 5:25, 8:20
TRINOMA Cinema 3** - 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 Cinema 4** - 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 Cinema 5 - 12:00 nn, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 Cinema 6 - 12:30 pm, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Cinema 7* - 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00	AYALA CENTER CEBU Cinema 1 - 10:45 am, 1:10 pm, 3:55, 9:45 Cinema 2 - 1:00 pm, 3:25, 6:10, 9:15 Cinema 3 - 12:30 pm, 2:55, 6:40, 8:45

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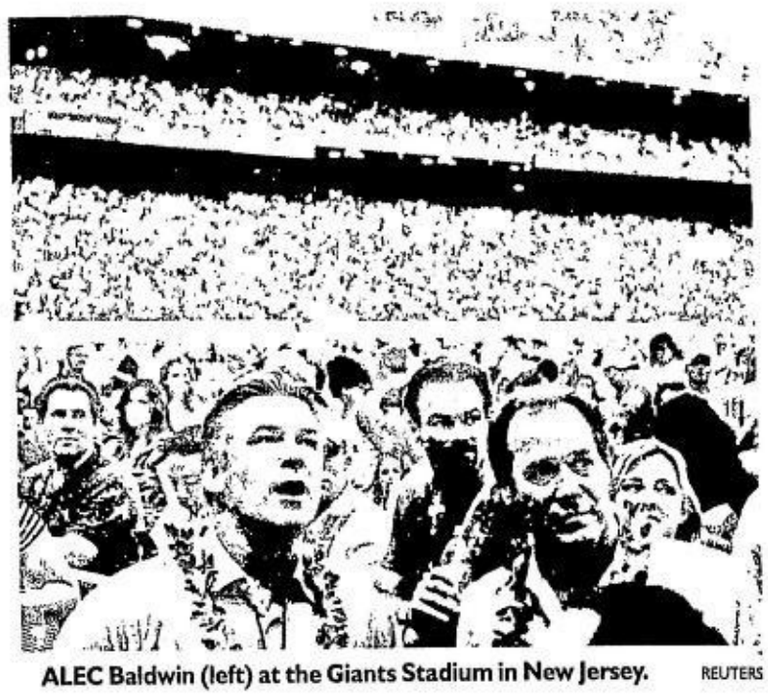

ALEC Baldwin (left) at the Giants Stadium in New Jersey. REUTERS

GRAND OPENING TODAY!
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THE REBELLION BEGINS
Harry Potter AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX

Underwhelmed by Live Earth

From page E1

biggest-selling newspaper, detailed estimates of Madonna's carbon emissions from nine houses, a fleet of cars, a private jet and the Confessions tour, calling her a "climate-change catastrophe."

The Sunday Telegraph quoted US reports of her alleged financial links to companies accused of being major polluters.

Her spokesperson in Britain was not immediately available for comment, but in a statement appearing in the Independent on Sunday, her New York spokesperson said: "Madonna's agreeing to sing at the Live Earth Event is merely one of the first steps in her commitment towards being environmentally responsible."

The negative headlines took some gloss off Madonna's widely praised appearance at Wembley Stadium in London, where she sang her specially written anthem "Hey You" before a raunchy performance of three of her biggest hits.

Mixed messages

The New York Times' online edition on Sunday featured a small picture of the event and a headline linking to "Artsbeat Blog," and in Britain only the Independent on Sunday made anything more than a fleeting reference on its front page.

But in Germany, where Snoop Dogg was among the acts at the Hamburg gig, Live Earth dominated headlines.

"The bottom line is that, if nothing else, the issue of climate protection was a lot of fun for two billion people for one day," wrote Bild am Sonntag, Germany's best-selling Sunday newspaper.

Organizers say that in addition to the tens of thousands of fans at the gigs, the television, radio and Internet audience could be as large as two billion.

Commentators noted the difficulty in marrying pop music with serious themes like the environment.

"Mixing music and a serious message gives concert a clunky rhythm," was the Washington Post's description of the Wembley gig, arguably the biggest lineup on the day that featured Red Hot Chili Peppers, Metallica and the Foo Fighters.

Performances were interspersed with long gaps, some of them filled by short films on environmental themes.

Many performers were "on message," calling on crowds from Sydney and Tokyo to New York and Rio de Janeiro to cut down on their personal carbon dioxide emissions and recycle.

Yet US comedian Chris Rock expressed the kind of disbelief shared by many on the day that Live Earth would make a lasting difference, even if he was only joking. He said in London: "I pray that this event ends global warming the same way that Live Aid ended world hunger."

Reuters

MELISSA Etheridge REUTERS

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INSIDE

Cinemanila deadline for entries today /F2

Juday after 20 years in the biz Viewfinder /F4

OPENING TODAY

Tuli

Stars Carlo Aquino, Desiree del Valle, Bembol Roco, Eugene Domingo

Directed by Auraeus Solito

Winner of the top plum in Cinemanila's digital film fest two years ago, Solito's follow-up to "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" was also screened in Sundance, in the out-of-competition section Spectrum. According to Ruben Nepales of the INQUIRER: "Spectrum is billed as 'a tribute to the abundance of compelling new voices ... in indie filmmaking.'" Says Robert Koehler of Variety: "[It] sets up a heady brew of daring sexuality and ancient rituals that broadens Solito's reach as a developing film artist." Andrew Dowler of Now.Toronto.com asserts: "Wordless passages, low-budget video visuals, sparse location sound and score enhance the feeling of primitive cinema." Exclusively in IndieSine, Robinsons Galleria.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

Stars Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Helena Bonham Carter, Ralph Fiennes

Directed by David Yates

Pottermania reaches fever pitch this month as the fifth Hogwarts film debuts 10 days before the seventh and final J.K. Rowling novel hits the shelves. Reports Richard Corliss of Time magazine: "Perhaps the best in the series ... the tone and palette are darker, the characters more desperate and more determined. Playtime is over." Peter Travers of Rolling Stone comments: "A sense of foreboding gives the film a pulse-quickening urgency." Todd McCarthy of Variety opines: "Considerably grimmer and grittier." Kirk Honeycutt of The Hollywood Reporter rants: "Suffers from growing pains ... might go down as the problematic film, full of plot but little fun."

FUN COUPLE Berenice Bejo and Michel Hazanavicius here to promote "OSS 117."

Why French Bond is 'gay'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos courtesy of Martin Macalintal, French Embassy

Award-winning filmmaker says even Sean Connery doesn't mind

FRENCH FILMMAKER MICHEL HAZANAVICIUS doesn't romanticize Hubert Bonisseur de la Bath, hero of his second movie, "OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies."

Michel says, chortling, "He's stupid."

The director and his leading lady/girlfriend Berenice Bejo, costume designer Catherine Serre and music scorer Kamel Ech-Cheikh, are in Manila to promote the spy film, which will have a local run in August.

Based on a series of spy novels/movies, "OSS" won the top prizes at the Tokyo and Seattle International Film Festivals last year. In Tokyo, it went up against Oscar favorite "Little Miss Sunshine."

Although it's a satire, "OSS 117" is also an homage to the 1960s James Bond movies starring Sean Connery.

"We sent [Sean] a DVD copy of our movie," Berenice says. "Last Sunday, I received a message from him on my answering machine [saying] he loved the film."

What makes your hero different from James Bond?

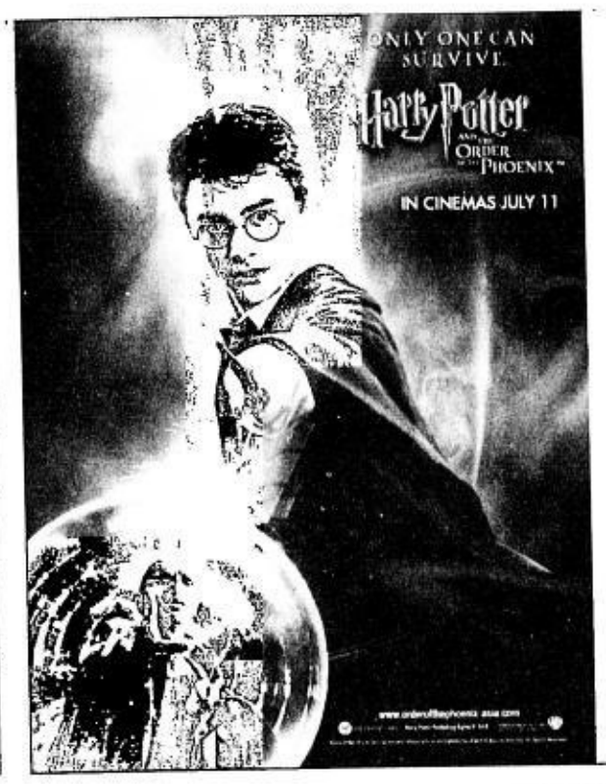
He's French. And he's stupid ... dumb, racist, sexist, homophobic.

What was the challenge of doing "OSS 117"?

The first was to make the audience laugh. I wanted to make a good-looking, smart, elegant movie for kids and adults alike.

In the Adelaide film fest, it was categorized

'GAY'/ F2



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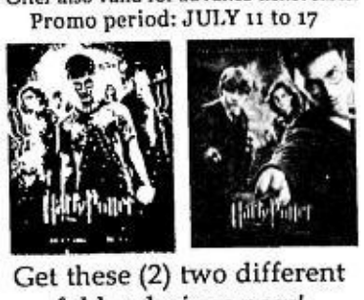

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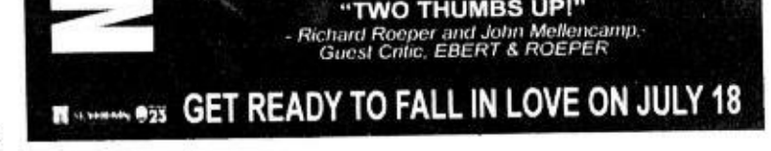

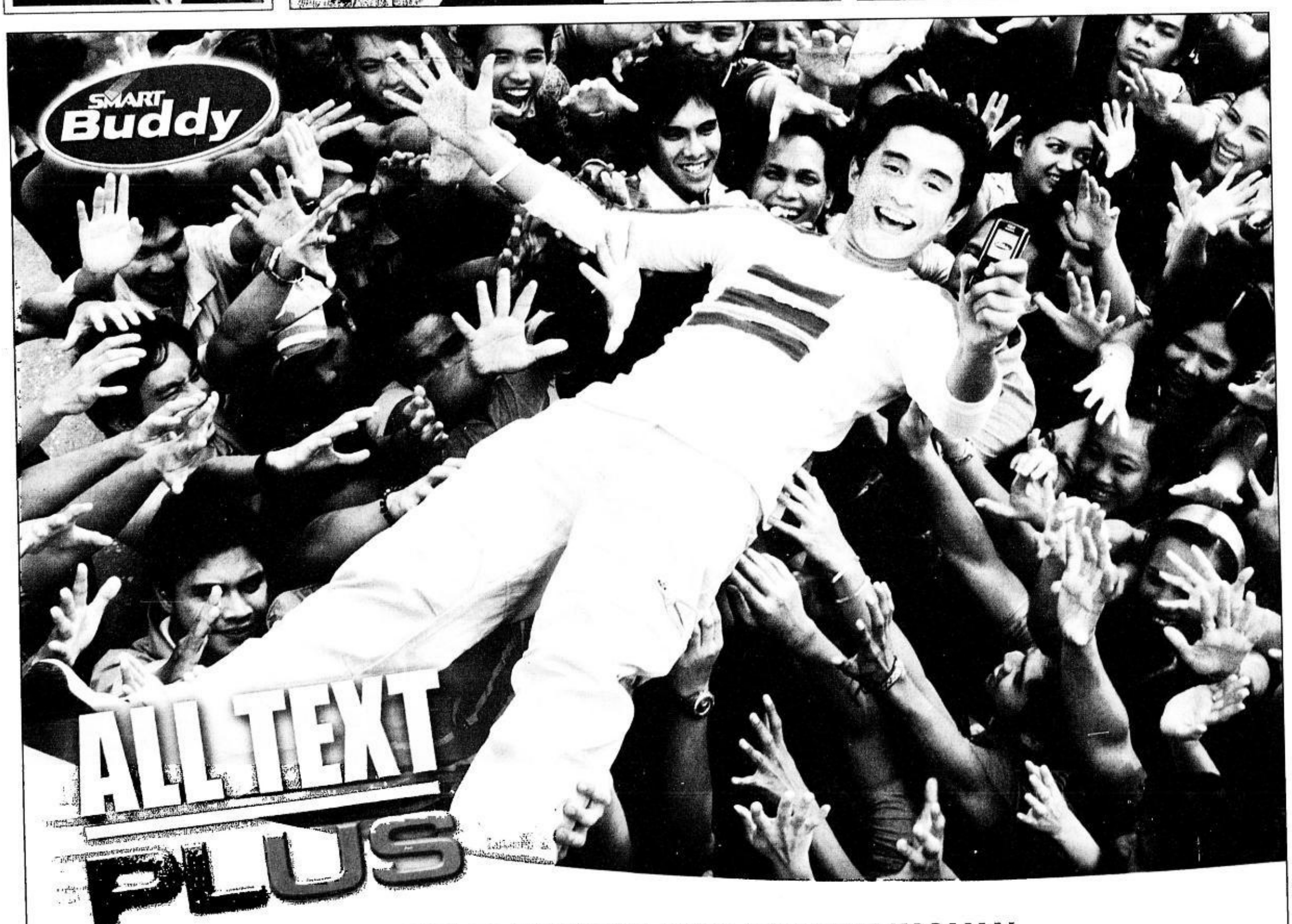

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ROUNDUP

Cinemanila deadline

TODAY is the deadline for the submission of entries to the 9th Cinemanila International Film Festival (CIFF). Log on to www.cinemanila.com.ph for details.

Olivier Pere, artistic director of the Cannes Film Festival Directors' Fortnight, has been named jury head for the tilt's 3rd Digital Lokal category.

The other jury members are Nour-Eddine Saïl, vice president of the Marrakech International Film Festival Foundation and Jens Peter Jensen of the Danish Film Institute.

The festival will run from August 8 to 19 at the Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao.

Digitized movies

Warner Bros. Entertainment is going digital, transforming the complex post-production of new films and the restoration of older titles from the traditional celluloid process to HP's Media Storage Technology.

The technology uses 4K Digital, the industry's highest resolution format for digital video, which has four times the resolution quality of high-definition television.

Shining circle

Who will follow in the footsteps of Palmolive Girls Iya, KC and Heart?

Fans of Palmolive Shining Circle of 10 finalists April Rodriguez, Meagan Musni and Nina Caldona can vote by texting Shine Reg Name/Age/Gender/Address and send to 2366.

Just text Vote (Dload Choice/Contestant Name) and send to 2366. One lucky voter wins P10,000 each week.

Woody's latest

MADRID—Woody Allen said on Monday he hoped to create a portrait of the northeastern Spanish city of Barcelona on par with his 1979 masterpiece "Manhattan."

The veteran American director said he aimed to picture Barcelona, "the same way I presented Manhattan to the world through my eyes." *AP*

JEAN DUJARDIN

'Gay' Bond

From page F1

under political satire.

There is a link to what is happening today, but it's mainly about France in the 1950s.

There is a lot of speculation that "OSS 117" is gay.

Yes, I'm sure he is. But I think he doesn't know. There is a gay way to read this movie. We pushed it a little bit more.

What was it like working with Jean Dujardin?

He is considered the new Jean-Paul Belmondo. He has an unusual gift as an actor, very funny in both close-ups and wide shots—like Peter Sellers and Charlie Chaplin.

What was it like working with Berenice?

She had a difficult job, being the straight woman to Jean, who had all the jokes. But she was very good.

What was it like winning in Tokyo?

I was very surprised—"Little Miss Sunshine" was in competition, too. I didn't even realize that we had won. The actress sitting beside me had to tell me to go up the stage.

What is your next project?

I just finished the script for the "OSS 117" sequel, "Rio Doesn't Call Anymore." It will be set in Brazil in the late 1960s. We hope to start shooting by January next year.

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11:00 AM	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
2:00 PM	FEW SEATS	OPEN	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
5:00 PM	SOLD OUT	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
8:00 PM	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 PM	FEW SEATS	OPEN	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

Subject to change without prior notice. You may also call your nearest SM Cinema branch and The Podium Cinema for their respective advance ticket selling screening schedules.

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2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V.
5 DIE HARD 4
6 HARRY POTTER V
7 HARRY POTTER V
8 TRANSFORMERS
9 TIYANAKS
10 DIE HARD 4
11 HARRY POTTER V
12 TRANSFORMERS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 FANTASTIC FOUR/ PARAISO
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 HARRY POTTER V
11 DIE HARD 4
12 TIYANAKSR V

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2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 DIE HARD 4
7 HARRY POTTER V
8 TIYANAKS
9 HARRY POTTER V
10 HARRY POTTER V
11 TRANSFORMERS
12 DIE HARD 4

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2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 HARRY POTTER V
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4 TIYANAKS
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6 TRANSFORMERS
7 DIE HARD 4
8 DIE HARD 4
9 TIYANAKS

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 HARRY POTTER V
7 TIYANAKS
8 HARRY POTTER V
9 TRANSFORMERS
10 HARRY POTTER V
11 FANTASTIC FOUR
12 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 DIE HARD 4
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 HARRY POTTER V

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 DIE HARD 4
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 DIE HARD 4
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS

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LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 TIYANAKS
6 DIE HARD 4
7 TRANSFORMERS
8 HARRY POTTER V

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TIYANAKS
6 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER V

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 DIE HARD 4
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 TIYANAKS

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 DIE HARD 4
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 HARRY POTTER V

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 DIE HARD 4
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TIYANAKS
5 TRANSFORMERS
6 HARRY POTTER V

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 TRANSFORMERS
3 DIE HARD 4
4 HARRY POTTER V

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 TRANSFORMERS
2 HARRY POTTER V
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4 HARRY POTTER V
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 HARRY POTTER V
7 TIYANAKS
8 DIE HARD 4

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 HARRY POTTER V
4 TRANSFORMERS
5 HARRY POTTER V
6 TIYANAKS
7 DIE HARD 4
8 HARRY POTTER V

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 HARRY POTTER V
2 HARRY POTTER V
3 TRANSFORMERS
4 DIE HARD 4

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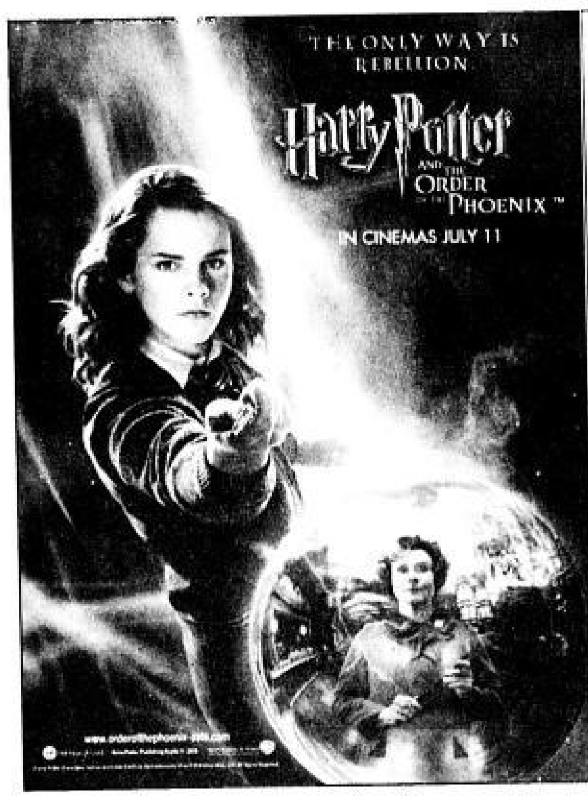

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8:00 / 9:00 / 9:40 / 10:00

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DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
DIE HARD 4 2:00 / 4:40 / 7:20 / 10:00
TRANSFORMERS 1:00 / 4:00 / 7:00 / 10:00
HARRY POTTER 5 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00

Ali MALL 5

1 HARRY POTTER 5 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00
2 DIE HARD 4 12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
3 HARRY POTTER 5 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
4 TIYANAKS 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00
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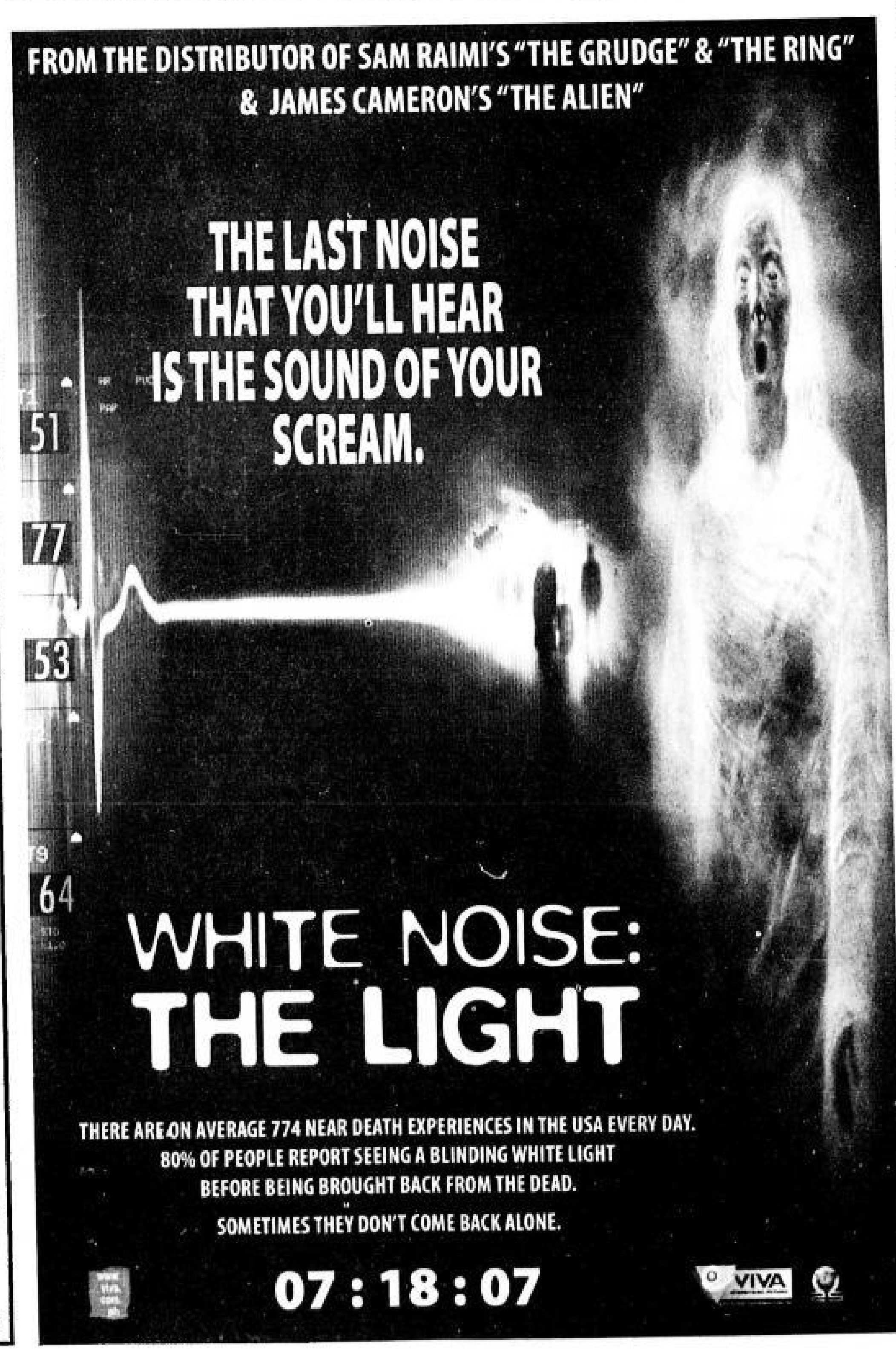


GARFIELD
BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT

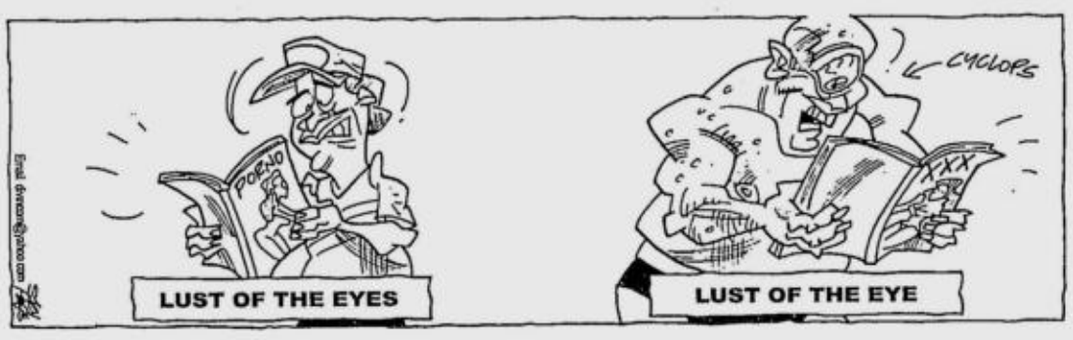
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

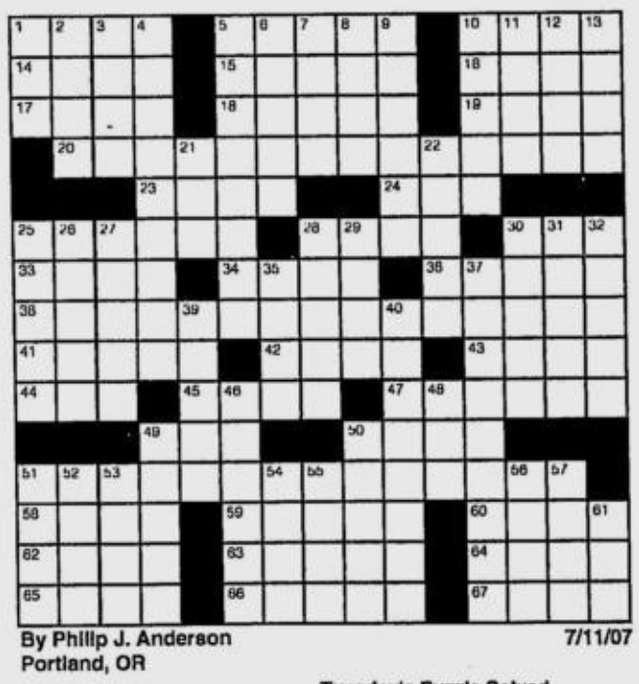
TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Poor box contribution
5 Glowing coal
10 Thomas Hardy heroine
14 Jacob's twin
15 French river
16 Bruins' home turf
17 Coarse file
18 Ross or Krall
19 Speaker of baseball
20 First hand?
23 __ avis
24 Boat mover
25 Meeting plan
28 Ale quantity
30 Varnish ingredient
33 Missile shelter
34 Fizzled out
36 Piano study
38 Second hand
41 St Vincent Millay and Ferber
42 Satellite of Saturn
43 Eye on the sly
44 Hush-hush D.C. org.
45 Ancient portico
47 Large groups
49 __ generis
50 Alain's girlfriend
51 Third hand?
58 Seine tributary
59 Tiger not to fear
60 Pare
62 Sao __ and Principe
63 Unaided
64 Abate
65 "Nana" star Anna
66 "Unsafe at Any Speed" author
67 Verifiable

DOWN
1 __ Lingus (Irish airline)
2 Aspiring D.A.'s exam
3 Sitcom set in Korea
4 Celestial explosion
5 Fabled city of gold
6 Shearer of "The Red Shoes"
7 Mental inclination
8 Sea eagle
9 Motive
10 One-on-one instructor
11 Hosiery hue
12 Skirt opening
13 Pageant adornment
21 Hoodwinked
22 San __, CA
25 Quaking tree
26 Dons a belt
27 "Maria __"
28 Turkish nabob
29 Not working
30 Breathing organs
31 Dancer Astaire
32 Hands over
35 Lira replacement
37 Tandem bike
39 Point of contention
40 Whiner
46 Alley of note?
48 Small island
49 Luster
50 Coeur d'__, ID
51 Poker prizes
52 Uprising
53 Salinger title girl
54 Hacienda room
55 Apple player
56 "Dies __"
57 Alther or Kudrow
61 Crooner Torme



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
7/11/07

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	O	P	S		H	E	A	P		I	M	A	G	E
O	M	R	I		E	M	I	L		N	O	M	A	D
N	A	I	L		L	U	L	U		D	R	A	P	E
I	S	O	L	D	E			S	M	I	T	T	E	N
C	A	R		E	N	I	D		E	G	G			
			P	I	A	N	O		D	O	A	B	L	E
A	N	D	E	S		N	O	S	E		G	O	E	R
R	E	A	D	T	H	E	D	I	A	G	O	N	A	L
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S	P	A	S	M	S		D	Y	E	R	S			
			T	I	N		S	L	A	M		S	U	N
O	P	E	R	A	T	E			T	S	E	T	S	E
P	O	L	I	S		A	L	O	E		D	R	E	W
A	S	S	A	M		C	A	R	R		G	I	R	L
H	Y	E	N	A		H	O	B	S		E	A	S	Y

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7/11/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You like to be sociable because you enjoy the company of others. You're very aware of what others are doing; yet ironically, you're private about your own life. Partnerships favor you. Others value your friendship because you're loyal. You're a good planner. Something you've been involved with for about nine years could end this year, to make room for something new.
Birthdate of: Justin Chambers, actor; Sela Ward, actress; Lisa Rinna, actress/TV host.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Focus on home and family today. Your domestic life is important to you right now. Recent encounters with relatives might provoke changes in how you want to do things.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Things are starting to return to normal now. It's been pretty crazy for the past six weeks. You can relax now and breathe a sigh of relief.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your ruler, Mercury, is now settling down in its orbit (relative to planet Earth). This means you're starting to feel more in control of your life. You're not at the end of a yo-yo anymore!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Mercury has been retrograde in your sign for weeks. That's why life has been full of delays and goofy mistakes, as well as people from the past popping up. Things will settle down now. (Whew!)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're starting to feel more confident about your life. In part, this is because you're beginning to get some of your ducks in a row. Finally, you feel you're in charge!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Running into old friends has made you think lately. Moments like this are a reality check. Because of this, you might alter your long-term goals in some way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Old business that you've been rehashing with parents or bosses is finally settled. Now you feel you can go forward with more confidence and fewer obstacles. (Great!)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Delays in travel plans, publishing, the media or anything related to education and schooling are finally over. Now you can move forward in these areas with more confidence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might need to redefine something related to mortgages, shared property or how you'll compromise with the values of someone else. You're ready for this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with partners are lively now. You feel like you've survived something. And in fact, most of you have!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): In the past six weeks, delays, errors and mixed-up communications at work have been annoying. You can rest assured that these will reduce considerably.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're starting to feel more on top of matters related to children, the arts, vacations, romance and sports. For some weeks now, you've been spinning your wheels in these areas.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	7	5	2					
6				4		8	5	
8			9		3			
5		9		8	4			
	6		3	2		1		
		3	6		9	7		
	2			9	6		3	7
	5					2	8	
						5		

Difficulty Level ★★★
7/11

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	9	2	1	5	7	6	3	8
8	5	7	3	6	9	2	4	1
6	3	1	4	2	8	7	5	9
3	6	4	2	7	1	9	8	5
1	8	5	6	9	3	4	7	2
2	7	9	5	8	4	3	1	6
9	2	3	7	1	5	8	6	4
5	4	8	9	3	6	1	2	7
7	1	6	8	4	2	5	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★
7/10

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lobe) or 283 (Smart)

ENTERTAINME

Judy Ann Santos after 20 years in the biz

JUDY ANN SANTOS

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

POPULAR TV-FILM ACTRESS JUDY **Ann Santos** is marking her 20th year in the biz with a series of big bangs that started with an anniversary concert at the Araneta Coliseum.

Santos really has a lot to toast herself for: In her late 20s, she's won acting awards, chalked up a hit film, "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," last year, and will star in its sequel, another potential blockbuster, this December.

And she has a new TV soap, "Ysabella," plus a number of profitable endorsements to add to her nest eggs.

Even her personal life is fairly humming along, with the actress candidly sharing that she's happy with her fiancé, **Ryan Agoncillo.**

Indeed, the only low point in her career these days is her insistence on singing and releasing albums, when she doesn't have a good singing voice.

We're glad that Judy Ann is flying high. After 20 long years of hard work, she's entitled to feel happy, fulfilled and richly rewarded for her hectic workload.

However, we note some aspects of Judy Ann's acting career that she might pay more attention to, if she genuinely wants her next 10 or 20 years in show business to be truly gratifying and dramatically enriching.

People who've watched her from the beginning will recall that, in her early teen years, the actress' best suit was her dramatically expressive eyes. On point of acting ability, she was no better than her young contemporaries. To her credit, Judy Ann persevered, while other starlets fell by the wayside.

But her acting ability really got honed only when she started making movies with ace directors. Slowly but surely, they raised the artistic bar for her in terms of challenging roles.

That was all to the good, but we noted even then that the "quickie" acting habits she had picked up on television were difficult for her to let go of.

To compensate, some film directors whipped up "*pang*-award" roles for her, movie parts loaded with "significant" and "relevant" dramatic elements.

The ploys were quite obvious, and we hoped that awards jurors could see through them—but no, the ploys worked and Judy Ann was officially cited as an exceptional actress—without having to give up her TV-style acting.

We felt sad about this, because it could give her the mistaken notion that awards could easily be won if an actress would come up with only a facsimile of deep and insightful characterization.

Our hope is that, now that she's in her late 20s, Judy Ann has become mature and objective enough to realize that truly great acting *can't* be finessed with cagey but contrived character construction and dramatic "emotional blackmail."

In the off chance that this is indeed the case, Judy Ann should give her next truly significant film assignment the time, care and insight that her TV work has disallowed. In other words, she should no longer confuse her TV process with the deeper and longer preparation and introspection that truly outstanding film work requires.

She should also stop overloading her "*pang*-award" movie characters with "significant" conflicts and psychological tics. Instead, she should look for a genuinely complex character to portray, and to give her next major dramatic assignment the time and emotional preparation it deserves.

If Judy Ann is able to make that major shift, her next big anniversary in the biz will be truly worth celebrating—because she shall finally become the "best" actress that she has too handily *appeared* to be thus far.

Feedback

From a "very concerned" viewer: "You must write about some evening *teleseryes* that are so violent and disagreeable in the way they pit combative characters against each other. They scream loudly, insult each other from head to toe, lash out physically at each other, pull each other's hair, etc. What a terrible example of 'adult' behavior and relationships these shows are providing to young viewers! Erring TV people, please be more responsible, and stop setting such a bad example!"

'Neo-soul,' Pinoy style

Two new local releases prove that local talent is world-class

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED "neo-soul" (or "nu soul") and why is it being associated with a number of Pinoy bands and solo artists?

It's a musical genre that fuses contemporary R&B, 1970s-style soul, classical, jazz, and elements of alternative-hip hop.

'70s influence

One of the first few albums to be dubbed as neo-soul was "Baduizm" by Erykah Badu. Soon after, talk of a new soul revival was confirmed with the 1998 release of Lauryn Hill's Grammy-winning album, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill."

This was followed by the arrival of Alicia Keys, Macy Gray, Maxwell, John Legend and Corrine Bailey Rae.

Some of these artists were influenced by the '70s classic soul music of Stevie Wonder and Donny Hathaway.

In the Philippines, the emergence of Pinoy soul which, like Pinoy rock and Pinoy jazz, is an offshoot of American and British influences, was discussed during the launch of Bituin Escalante's third and latest album, "Ur Love Thang" (independently produced by her management, The Thirdline Inc.).

"Some people are calling us the new alternative," says musician-composer-producer Dan Gil, to describe the cult following that Pinoy style neo-soul has been receiving these past few months.

"The alternative Pinoy rock scene has become so big, that I guess it was just a natural reaction for some of us to explore other genres," he explains.

Gil played a major part in the making of "Ur Love Thang," co-writing most of the songs and playing an assortment of keyboards (acoustic piano, Fender Rhodes and Wurlitzer electric piano, Hammond organ, drum beats and synthesizer programming) that oils the music with energy and urban appeal.

"This is as much as Dan's album as it is mine," says Escalante, after performing some of the tracks live at the press launch.

No pretense

The CD is remarkable for dropping any pretense of trying to find a Pinoy identity. The songs, in fact, sound so black and soulful that it's hard to believe Escalante is singing them. (But one look at the CD cover should give you a clue that this Pinay must have some Afro blood like Jaya.)

Perhaps the point "Ur Love Thang" wants to make is that Filipinos are indeed so talented as to be at par with the best neo-soul artists out there. Listen to the keyboard-based grooves dripping with soul, reggae, R&B, funk, jazz, Latin and hip hop, as Escalante breezes through songs of romance and heartbreak with convincing joy, disappointment, lust, loneliness and spunk.

Though this may not yet be the work that would push Escalante's career to shine at its brightest, it should serve as the spark.

Dignity and flair

Similarly, the self-titled debut album of Sinosikat? released by Warner Music Philippines might be a fine example of neo-soul.

But unlike Bituin's singing, which hews closely to R&B, Sinosikat? vocalist Kat Agarrado's style leans more into jazz.

It's an earthy kind of warbling that's sophisticated at the same time—Agarrado tackling such touchy subjects as seduction ("Akin Ka") with wit and poise. Even a track that hints of paranoia from drugs ("Praning") is performed with dignity and flair.

Agarrado's band, sounding like a jazz trio in New York City clubs circa 1960s, delivers the goods, steadily guiding her to navigate a balanced lineup of English and Tagalog songs. Some of these songs, like the last cut ("Sino?"), reveal a playful, provocative nature underscored by Agarrado's full-bodied pipes.

This is only its first recording and it remains to be seen whether Sinosikat? can go the full distance to stardom.

Nyoy still loves Nina 'very much'

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

NYOY VOLANTE CALLED ME UP AFTER reading my item about his ex-girlfriend **Nina's** blossoming friendship with the brother of her guitarist **Dards (Coy Enriquez)**. The guy is being pinpointed as the cause of the split-up.

Nyoy sighed, "I don't know if that's true—I'd rather not know. I still love Nina very much."

I could feel the pain in his voice. Pain can make us do the most wonderful things sometimes. I'm sure Nyoy will turn his pain into a haunting hit song.

Another world

Angel Locsin laughed off rumors that she flunked the entrance exams in London's Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design.

"In the first place, I am not taking any exam because it's not required for a crash course, she said. "I just want to immerse myself in another world for two weeks. Hope my detractors will give me a break."

After the *ingrata* issue which is totally untrue, it seems some quarters have been relentless in trying to pull Angel down. But tough ladies like her easily pass the test of intrigues with "ala-Darna flying" colors!

LA meeting

Marvin Agustin texted me while waiting for his flight to the US. He is meeting up with Angel Locsin and her manager **Becky Aguila** in LA for the US premier of their movie "Angels."

I teased him. "Aren't you going to accompany Angel to London even for a few days until she gets settled for her classes?"

He replied, "*Bahala na*. I'd really wanna do that but I have to rush back home for taping."

Well... sometimes the best things are the things we don't plan. Looks like nothing can stop Marvs from falling a la London bridge whether Angel is in England or Manila.

A gathering storm

Mega Manila woke up to a new sound on the FM band Easter morning of this year—the sound of chill-out and house sprinkled with a mix of indie and classic down-tempo music from the past. The station: 92.3xFM.

"We found a demand among listeners who had deserted the FM band," says xFM's president and CEO **Raymund Miranda.** "They wanted a unique sound and they were again looking to radio to be the music expert it used to be in the past."

Listeners have referred to it as chill out, trip hop, electronica, new jazz, ambient, lounge, eclectic and so on. The genre has found its way to commercials, movies like "American Beauty" and "Cruel Intentions" and TV series such as "House" and "Grey's Anatomy."

Tune in to 92.3 xFM or listen online via xSTREAM at http://www.923xfm.ph and be a part of a gathering storm.

New album

Warner Music Phils' newest princess **Kisha** has launched her self-titled debut album. It features the carrier single "Mahal na Mahal Kita" which is now enjoying favorable airplay. Most of the songs in her CD are composed by hitmaker **Larry Hermoso** (who wrote "Nanghihinayang" by Jeremiah etc...) Kisha's soothing voice will surely enchant you like kisses on a rainy day.

Reader's corner

Hi, Dolly!

I chanced upon your column where you mentioned the oft-mentioned comparisons between **Ryan Agoncillo** and Harry Potter. The local Potter fangroup (http://www.hogwartsphilippines.org) actually gave Ryan a Hogwarts uniform to wear, provided he showed up at the Phil Sci Fi and Fantasy Convention. And he did!

Personal

Birthday hugs to the *charmant* wife Lally of my *tres sympa* buddy Bernard Supetran.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

'Pirate Master' starts tonight

TAKE FIVE

HOST Cameron Daddo

By Dianne M. Villafuerte

ALL HANDS ON DECK AS "PIRATE Master," another reality television series, starts on AXN tonight at 9 p.m. A total of 16 gutsy men and women live as pirates on a real ship and embark on a search for hidden treasure.

Produced by Mark Burnett ("Survivor," "The Contender"), whom Forbes Magazine has dubbed "the most prolific, most successful producer of reality TV," the new show is hosted by Australian-born actor Cameron Daddo. INQUIRER chatted with Daddo recently.

How is "Pirate Master" different?

It's a fantasy reality show. The participants will live as 18th century pirates on a real, moving ship in the Caribbean.

They have to find their own food and operate and maintain the ship.

What attracted you to the project?

My love of the sea and fascination with pirates. My grandfather says our family descended from Spanish pirates who sailed through Cornwall in the late 1600s (laughs).

How much is your involvement in the show?

I go to the ship every day and tell the contestants what they need to do.

How do you deal with the stress and excitement?

I drink beer (laughs). Being the father of three kids, I have developed a firm hand. The contestants know I'm there to give them instructions. I tell them not to mess with me.

What do your kids think of you hosting "Pirate Master"?

This is my very first show that they can watch; the others [I've done] have a lot of cursing.

NOW ON DISC

'The Good German'

The espionage thriller "The Good German," directed by Steven Soderbergh, takes place in post World War II Berlin where US Army war correspondent Jake Geismer (George Clooney) crosses paths with former lover Lena Brandt (Cate Blanchett) and becomes immersed in a manhunt for Lena's missing husband. It also stars Tobey Maguire.

'Music and Lyrics'

"Music and Lyrics" follows former '80s pop star Alex (Hugh Grant) who gets a chance at a comeback when he's asked to write and record a song with a current pop princess. He looks to quirky plant lady Sophie (Drew Barrymore) for help in writing the song.

'The Pursuit of Happyness'

Father Chris Gardner (Will Smith) takes custody of son Christopher (Jaden Smith). They struggle through homelessness and other problems in a quest that would eventually make Gardner a respected millionaire.

'Ghost Rider'

Based on the fictional Marvel Comics character Ghost Rider, stunt motorcycle rider Johnny Blaze (Nicolas Cage) gives up his soul to become a hell-blazing vigilante.

'Unaccompanied Minors'

"Unaccompanied Minors" is set on Christmas Eve. A huge blizzard has shut down the airport and five unaccompanied minors are determined to max out their holiday by running wild inside and outside the airport.